Violence against women is a major problem in all countries, affecting women in every socio-economic group and at every life stage. Nowhere in the world do women share equal social and economic rights with men or the same access as men to productive resources.

From a political economy perspective, sexual violence in recent armed conflicts is an integral part of this pattern of pervasive violence. Yet the United Nations Security Council frames wartime sexual violence as "exceptional". UN security interventions fail to conceptualize sexual violence during war as part of the continuum of gender-based violence that transgresses familiar soldier-civilian, male-female, state-non-state perpetrator, war-peace boundaries that thrives under conditions of globalized conflict thus significantly hampering any violence-protection efforts.

Using the example of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the seminar hopes to show how economic and political mechanisms linked to global processes, including the UN's own presence, competition over resources, struggle for economic and political power, and the reproduction of militarised masculinities through war and profit, contribute to sexual violence against women in this conflict-affected society. The paper draws implications from political economy analysis for international peace operations that seek not only to protect against and prosecute perpetrators of this violence but to prevent it in the long run.
Thursday 3 May 2012

The Vulnerable in International Society
Professor Ian Clark, Aberystwyth University

It might be thought that, like the poor, the vulnerable are always with us. However, this misses a crucial point: vulnerability is not just some objective condition, but is in addition a function of the power exercised by those with a capacity to act and make decisions. People are vulnerable not just to 'nature', but additionally to the decisions of the powerful.

The brief of this paper is not the vulnerable and international society, taken as two discrete subjects, but rather the vulnerable in international society, stipulating a constant empirical and moral conjunction between the two. Its argument is that international society creates and allocates particular distributions of vulnerability. This will be demonstrated with reference to cases such as political violence, climate change and human movement.

When: 3:30pm-4:30pm
Where: Darlington Centre Boardroom, University of Sydney

Thursday 10 May 2012

Citizenship As a Frame for Justice in the Context of Unsustainable Development
Dr. Andy Scerri, RMIT University

Green citizenship is often discussed as a normative tool to promote justice in the context of unsustainable development. By contrast, I view it as a partially successful consequence of post-industrial eco-modernisation.

With four of its five central claims — dissolving the nature/culture dualism, breaking down the private and public sphere division, fostering social non-contractualism and non-territorialism — achieved, the greening of citizenship may obstruct or foster opportunities for the fifth: grounding justice in fair use of ecological space. This fifth claim prompts the need to address injustice as a diffuse whole-of-society problem that lacks an identifiable class of perpetrators. I examine how some social movements can be said to challenge injustice in such terms.

When: 3:30pm-4:30pm
Where: Darlington Centre Boardroom, University of Sydney

Thursday 31 May 2012

The National Economic Interest: Sketch for an Intellectual History
Dr. Ryan Walker, Australian National University

This paper indicates how a history of the national economic interest might be written and then takes some provisional steps in this direction. The central premise is that it is necessary to suspend the contemporary assumption that national wealth and national power are separate phenomena, for this step enables this presumption to be treated as the product of an intellectual process that can be investigated historically. With this point in mind, attention turns to consider the forms of state counsel in which the strength-wealth nexus was elaborated in early modern Britain, and how this nexus and the counsels it supported came to be contested by Adam Smith and David Ricardo.

Dr. Walter’s presentation will be followed by an Insights 2012 Inaugural Lecture by Professor John Keane entitled ‘Silence, Power, Catastrophe: New Reasons Why Media and Democracy Matter in the Early Years of the Twenty-First Century’. (Details can be found on page 9).

To register for the Inaugural Lecture, please click here.

When: 3:30pm-4:30pm
Where: Darlington Centre Boardroom, University of Sydney

More information can be found at: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/government_international_relations/News_and_Events/colloquium.shtml
The prevention of torture has long been at the heart of the international human rights movement, and despite the emergence of many other fields of concern, has, since 9/11, once again risen to the top of the list of concerns. A team from the University of Sydney has received a large grant from the European Union to work on torture prevention within the military and police institutions of two countries emerging from civil war, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Danielle Celermajer, the Prevention of Torture Project Director, hopes to engage colleagues in some of the large questions this type of project raises, about how the international community engages at the local level, how academics combine scholarship and activism, what role the social sciences and humanities have in human rights thinking and advocacy and the need to think creatively about the normative contexts in which rights come to be systematically violated.

**Politics in the Pub**

Politics in the Pub is a program of speakers and discussions centring around the broad theme of politics. The convenors describe themselves as ‘people who characterise ourselves as “left” and “democratic” who have established a left politico-cultural focus in Sydney to promote cross fertilisation and discussion.’

**Friday 27th April 2012**

**Burma: The Beginning of the Thaw in the Military Dictatorship?**

**Speakers:**
Dr. Sean Turnell, Economics, Macquarie University
Zetty Brake, Coordinator of the Burma Campaign, Australia

**Friday 4 May 2012**

**The Labor-Green Alliance - What Does It Mean For Progressive Politics?**

**Speakers:**
Dr Ben Spies-Butcher, Macquarie University
Troy Bramston, Author of *Looking for the Light on the Hill*

**Friday 11 May 2012**

**Australia’s Meagre Unemployment Benefits - A Just Response to the Crisis of Unemployment**

**Speakers:**
Maree O’Halloran, Director of the Welfare Rights Centre
Professor Peter Whiteford, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW
New Media Advertising for Social Research
Hosted by the Online Media Group

The Online Media Group organises talks and seminars for academics interested in the political use, implications, and study of new and emerging media. The group presently runs talks on a monthly basis in the Sydney-Canberra area.

Online advertising has considerable potential for social researchers to engage in targeted and specialised recruitment for research activities. This includes interview, survey and group-based activities.

This scholarly talk will bring representatives from the major online advertisers to talk with social researchers about what their products can offer. The session will include the opportunity for a Q&A and brainstorming about innovative solutions to current and future research problems.

Confirmed speakers are:
* Mia Garlick, Communications & Public Policy Australia New Zealand, Facebook;
* Waseem Ghulam, Founder of Clixpert (Google AdWords reseller);
* Rob Flaye, Research Business Development Manager, Empowered Communications, and
* Dr Margaret Faedo, University of Sydney Ethics.

The session will offer participants ample time to discuss their research, and explore ways in which online advertising may be used to build better research samples...

When: Monday 30 April 2012, 2pm
Where: Room 357, Carslaw Building, University of Sydney
Enquiries: Peter Chen - peter.chen@sydney.edu.au

Divine Detection: Crime and the Metaphysics of Disorder
Professors Jean Comaroff and John Comaroff, University of Chicago
Hosted by the Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney

Conceptions of crime are inseparable from conceptions of truth. They are integral, too, to modern modes of producing knowledge – and to the very idea of society as a normative order. Durkheim, after all, saw crime as the negative imprint of the law, a vision linked to the rise of the modernist understanding of detection. This was a form of investigation that no less a sociologist than Sherlock Holmes would term the art of “reasoning backwards,” of arriving at the hidden authorship of illegal acts by deciphering the signature they left in the world.

But if modern understandings of law, order, and truth rest on the belief that human interaction – even at its most transgressive – can be made sense of in retrospect, even used in the service of social order, what are we to make of situations in which that faith conspicuously wavers? In which ordinary signs have been occulted, and the drama of crime and punishment no longer seems capable of producing an authoritative, ordered reality? An exercise in “criminal anthropology,” this seminar paper investigates the metaphysics of disorder so palpable in the popular culture of contemporary South

John and Jean Comaroff are distinguished Professors in Anthropology at the University of Chicago. John researches and publishes independently and in collaboration with his wife, Jean. His interests include corporate Christianity, witchcraft, political culture, colonialism, the history of consciousness, politics, historical anthropology, law, post colonialism, modernity, and social theory. Jean’s research interests include colonialism, healing, liberation struggles, and the problems of modernity, based on fieldwork conducted in southern Africa and Great Britain.

When: Thursday 3 May 2012, 3pm
Where: Meeting Room 148, RC Mills Building, University of Sydney
Enquiries: Robbie Peters - robbie.peters@sydney.edu.au

For further information - sydney.edu.au/arts/anthropology/about/seminars.html
Brenda L Croft, University of New South Wales
Hosted By Department of Gender and Cultural Studies

Brenda L Croft will discuss the curatorial context for establishing the inaugural National Indigenous Art Triennial, held at the National Gallery of Australia in 2007, to coincide with the NGA’s 25th anniversary; the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum (Aboriginals); and issues relating to NIAT ’07’s international tour to Washington, DC, USA, in 2009, after Croft’s departure from the NGA.

Brenda L Croft is from the Gurindji/Malgnin/Mudpurra peoples in the Northern Territory of Australia. She has been involved in the arts and cultural sectors for more than a quarter of a century as an artist, arts administrator, curator, writer, academic and consultant. In 2009 Brenda commenced as a lecturer at the University of South Australia. From 2002 – early 2009 Brenda was Senior Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art at the National Gallery of Australia. Brenda received a Master of Art Administration from the College of Fine Arts (UNSW) in 1995, an Alumni Award in 2001, and an Honorary Doctorate (Visual Art) from University of Sydney (Sydney College of the Arts) in 2009.

Brenda has been awarded an ARC Discovery Indigenous Award and research grant for 2012 and is undertaking her PhD at the National Institute for Experimental Arts, College of Fine Arts, University of NSW.

When: Friday 4 May 2012, 2pm
Where: The Refectory, The Quadrangle Building [A14], University of Sydney
More Information: Tess Lea - tess.LEA@sydney.edu.au

The Utilisation of Technology and Online Media in Raising awareness and Connecting People and Communities Around the World
Guy Winship, World Education Australia
Hosted By Sydney Development Circle

Guy Winship, CEO and Director of World Education Australia and Good Return, will address the topic: The utilisation of technology and online media in raising awareness and connecting people and communities around the world. Guy was previously Managing Director of FINCA Uganda, a large regulated best-practice rural micro-finance institution, and is internationally recognised for his experience and skills in the enterprise development field, particularly in the areas of micro-finance and rural financial services within low-income communities.

Drawing on his experience as CEO of Good Return - an online lending portal that enables individuals to connect with the poor around the world and provide them with a loan - Guy will share his insight and experience, and provide an opportunity for discussion regarding the effectiveness of online forums and social media as tools for interactivity and sharing, accountability and tracking of loans, empowerment of others and change for good.

The Sydney Development Circle (SDC) is a mentoring and networking group open to anyone interested in international aid and community development at the local, regional and global levels.

All are welcome to this Sydney Development Circle session.

When: Monday 7th May, 6pm for 6:30pm
Where: UTS Broadway Campus, Room 470, Level 2, 235 Jones Street (Building 10)
Cost: $5 (payable at door)
More Information: Lucy Hobgood-Brown - lucy@claypartners.com or 0417 272 101
Directions: http://datasearch.uts.edu.au/about/mapsdirections/map.cfm
Sharing Big Ideas, igniting debate, celebrating the literary - we are bringing our Faculty's exciting thinkers and writers to the public stage in a new collaboration with Sydney Writers' Festival in 2012. In addition to an epic double-bill event on campus in the Great Hall, we will have key speakers and facilitators in a number of special events across the festival program from 14th–20th May.

With an emphasis on the Big Ideas that matter in our world, and under the festival theme of ‘Public vs. Private’, we are thrilled to present a program that includes events on issues as diverse as the Occupy movement, Indigenous Australian literature, poetry, torture and the making of the US president in 2012.

Kick back and explore all the inspiring events that we have on offer, and get set to have your mind invigorated this coming May…

What’s On - Presented by The University of Sydney

Ever since Occupy Wall Street began, the idea of 99 per cent standing up against the 1 per cent has taken off around the world. Will this movement last? Can it change the world? How can writers engage?

Loretta Napoleoni, Chad Harbach and John Keane talk to Simon Tormey.

**When:** Thursday, 17 May, 8:00 - 9:30pm  
**Where:** The Great Hall, University of Sydney, Quadrangle Building, Off Science Road, Glebe  
**Cost:** FREE, No booking required

The 2012 US Presidential election is shaping up to be one of the most fascinating in recent history, with the incumbent, Barack Obama, America's first African-American President set to break the $1 billion barrier in campaign spending, while the Republicans scramble to unite behind a candidate despite the woeful US economy and Obama's low ratings. Predictions are hazardous at this stage of the race but our panel will have a stab:

- Joe McGinniss, author of *The Selling of the President and The Rogue*, his biography of Sarah Palin
- The University of Sydney’s David Smith and journalist Annie Groer cast their predictions.
- Chair: Julia Baird

**When:** Thursday, 17 May, 1:00 - 2:00pm  
**Where:** Sydney Dance 2, Pier 4/5, Hickson Road, Walsh Bay  
**Cost:** FREE, No booking required

How is it that our supposedly liberal democratic governments engage in torture? What does it say about our political culture that this is an acceptable way to fight terrorism? Or is it?

Former CIA interrogator Glenn Carle is a strong critic of US government practice. He talks with Danielle Celermajer, who is heading up a major research project on the prevention of torture.

**When:** Friday 18 May, 2:30-3:30pm  
**Where:** Sydney Dance 2, Pier 4/5, Hickson Road, Walsh Bay  
**Cost:** FREE, No booking required

Extraction Economics and Indigenous Transformations
Professor Stephen Mueche, UNSW and Professor Jon Altman, ANU
Hosted by Department of Gender and Cultural Studies

With the prospect of new industries, starting with a major gas plant, the Indigenous population of Broome finds itself under pressure and internally divided. I have started working again with Goolarabooloo, who are opposed to mining on their Dreaming. Their struggle has had the effect of reviving forms of culture that take contemporary shapes, but are always strongly linked to the traditional culture. With national and international attention focused on Goolarabooloo, my study will analyse the transformation of this confederacy of language groups in the context of industrialisation - starting with pearling in the 19th century - and tourism.

There are increasingly dominant political and bureaucratic views dialectically echoing corporate perspectives and public discourse that the economic future of remote Indigenous people lies in the mainstream. Industrial mining is regarded as the prime site for Indigenous employment and business engagement in part because there are few other opportunities, in part because Indigenous land owners have some leverage in this production realm, and late capitalist logic dictates it must be exercised for individual and community gain. Drawing on David Graeber's distinction in Debt: The First 5,000 Years between market - or commercial - and human economies, in this seminar I explore some of the reasons for low Indigenous participation in mining and consider an alternate form of hybrid economy that might deliver sustainable livelihood outcomes.

Stephen Muecke is Professor of Writing at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. He worked with Paddy Roe to write the award-winning Reading the Country (1984) and Gularabulu (1983).

J on Altman is Professor in Economic Anthropology at the Australian National University. In 2009 he coedited Culture, Power, Economy: Indigenous Australians and Mining.

When: Friday 18 May 2012, 2pm
Where: The Refectory, The Quadrangle Building [A14], University of Sydney
More Information: Tess Lea - tess.lea@sydney.edu.au
The Recent Development of China’s Civil Society
Professor Yu Keping, Beijing University

Co-Hosted by Sydney Ideas and China Studies Centre

After 30-plus years of reform and opening up, Chinese society has been gaining more independent space and growth momentum rarely seen before in Chinese history. In this presentation, Professor Yu argues that a relatively independent civil society is emerging in China thanks to the introduction of market economy and progress of democratic governance in China. Professor Yu details the categorisation, characteristics, progress and limitations as well as implications of civil society in China. In his view, the long run-growth of China’s civil society is irreversible since a market economy and democratic system functionally require a civil society. China’s aspiration for a market economy and its pledge to democracy make the development of civil society a necessity for China although it could possibly face some setbacks from time to time.

After his presentation, Professor Yu will be in conversation with Professor John Keane, Professor of Politics at the University of Sydney.

Professor Yu Keping is Professor and Director of the China Center for Comparative Politics and Economics (CCCPE), and also Professor and Director, Center for Chinese Government Innovations, Peking University and Institute of Political Development, Tsinghua University. He currently serves as Deputy Director of the Bureau of Translation of the CCP Central Committee. His major fields of expertise include political philosophy, comparative politics, globalisation, civil society, governance and politics in China. His English work includes Democracy is a Good Thing (2009) and Globalization and Changes in China’s Governance (2008).

When: Monday 21 May 2012, 2:30 - 4:00pm
Where: Law School Foyer, Eastern Avenue, the University of Sydney
Cost: FREE
Enquiries: Meredith Hall - meredith.hall@sydney.edu.au

Dissatisfied Democrats?
Emeritus Professor Hans Dieter-Klingemann, WZB

Co-Hosted by Sydney Democracy Initiative and the Department of Government and International Relations

Do Europeans support democracy as a form of government? And, if they do: Are they satisfied with the way democracy is developing in their own countries? What distinguishes satisfied democrats from dissatisfied ones and is support for democracy on the decline at the same time as the number of “dissatisfied democrats” is on the rise?

This paper, inspired by the world-wide evidence presented by Pippa Norris in Critical Citizens (1999) and Democratic Deficit (2010), uses results generated by two cross-section surveys conducted in 43 European countries to answer these questions, comparing countries individually, across the post-communist “East-West” divide, and for two periods of time that stretch, on average, over roughly nine years from 1999 to 2008.

Empirical results do not lend themselves to easy generalizations but our results suggest that at least two explanations help to account for the differences that exist in our data. The first explanation stresses economic development, a variable that has been linked with support for democracy many times before, but the second explanation is a new finding. This suggests that differences in the way in which (collective) actors evaluate the performance of democracy as a form of government marks the difference between satisfied democrats on the one hand and dissatisfied democrats on the other.

Professor Klingemann is one of the world’s most renowned political scientists, having made major international contributions to the study of comparative political behaviour, party politics, and political ideologies. In his long career, Dr. Klingemann has authored 13 books, over 150 articles and book chapters and edited 22 scholarly volumes. He has been a principal investigator on over 20 major research grants.

When: Thursday 24 May 2012, 3:30pm-4:30pm
Where: Darlington Centre Boardroom, University of Sydney
Following on from the highly successful **Insights 2011: Inaugural Lecture Series**, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney, is delighted to bring you the 2012 schedule. Alumni, colleagues and friends are invited to celebrate the first of four new professorial appointments.

**Silence, Power, Catastrophe: New Reasons Why Media and Democracy Matter in the Early Years of the Twenty-First Century**

Professor John Keane, School of Social and Political Sciences

We are living in a new era of large-scale catastrophes, whose causes and remedies demand bold new political thinking about the origins of public silence, the meaning of democracy and the old ideals of free communication.

John Keane is Professor of Politics in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Sydney. Professor Keane is known nationally and internationally for his work in the past, present and future of representation and democracy, Antarctica, globalisation and the future of global governance, public life, communicative abundance and cross-border journalism, early modern and contemporary conceptions of civil society and government and fear and politics.

**When:** Thursday 31st 2012, 6pm (refreshments served in the Nicholson Museum from 5:30pm)

**Where:** General Lecture Theatre One, Quadrangle, University of Sydney

**Reservations:** Essential, at least one week prior to the lecture. Register online at: sydney.edu.au/alumni/insights

**Enquiries:** (02) 9351 7454

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**Everything Political** is an events newsletter designed to publicise details of all forthcoming research and public events in the field of politics, very broadly defined. The newsletter is not confined to events (co-)hosted by the University of Sydney; it hopes to include all interested parties who wish to publicise and promote politics-themed events. Everything Political will be published on the last Thursday of each month.

Everything Political is a new public service to all members of staff, and to interested publics outside the University. Its main purpose is to raise the level of visibility and co-operation among research and teaching staff interested in politics. The newsletter will enable people to plan their events in advance, so avoiding clashes and duplication.

**Event Submission**

Everything Political is an initiative of staff based at the University of Sydney, the University of Western Sydney and the University of New South Wales. It will be published on the last Thursday of each month. If you wish to submit details of an event for inclusion in the newsletter, please email: sdi@sydney.edu.au by the 17th of the month. We require the following information for every event:

- Brief summary of the event, including titles, speakers, relevant subject details and details of the sponsoring organisations
- When, where (maps included, where possible), cost and RSVP or further information details
- An image in JPEG, GIF or High Res format related to your event

**Subscription**

Please email your details including name, organisation (where applicable) and email address to sdi@sydney.edu.au