The recent electoral success of Mitt Romney has convinced many observers that ambivalence about Mormons no longer matters politically in the United States. This paper shows that in fact, attitudes towards Mormons continue to be extremely divisive on two levels. On the one hand, many religious conservatives distrust Mormons and refuse to vote for them out of the traditional concern that they are not Christian as they claim to be. On the other hand, secularists and religious liberals see Mormons as part of the conservative religious coalition along with evangelicals and Catholics, harboring a distinctly repressive social agenda which makes them potentially dangerous as political leaders. Thus Mormon politicians are in an extremely awkward position between these two sides of America’s “culture war,” not fully accepted by either side. Using new survey questions about attitudes to Mormons, this paper explores the natures of the two anti-Mormonisms and the electoral penalties associated with each. I argue that conservative anti-Mormonism was a more important factor than Tea Party support or small government purity in the Republican Primary, and it could continue to be an important factor in driving down conservative enthusiasm while firing up the Democratic base.

Dr David Smith is jointly appointed between the United States Studies Centre and the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Sydney. Smith has a PhD in political science from the University of Michigan. His research examines political relations between governments and religious communities in the US and other countries with a focus on Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses. Recently he has explored how the religious identity of Presidential candidates affects support for them, looking especially at Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

When: Thursday 23 August 2012, 3:30pm-4:30pm
Where: Darlington Centre Boardroom, University of Sydney
Muslim Terrorism: Causes and Consequences
Dr. Jan Ali, University of Western Sydney

Hosted by Australian Institute of International Affairs

The War on Terror was a phrase that entered the language after 9-11 to describe the United States-led international military campaign against Al Q’aeda and its leader Osama Bin Laden. It was coined by former president George W Bush to justify confronting and eliminating any extremist group that posed a threat to the US or its allies.

Inevitably much of its focus alighted on militant Islamists, not least because most of those known to be involved in the 9-11 plot were of that persuasion. Al Q’aeda main, as it became known, was reduced to a rump, but other terrorist cells emerged and grew in many parts of the world, including the Middle East, Britain, central Asia, the Horn of Africa, the Caucasus, and some parts of South East Asia.

During this time many words have entered the common lexicon, Islamic extremism, militancy, insurgency and asymmetric warfare. Religion has always been an incendiary force behind terrorism, but why has this period been so dominated by the image of Islamic terrorism? It is a fair question, since it followed a long spell when one of the major terrorist threats in the world was generated in a Christian religious conflict between protestants and catholics in Northern Ireland.

Dr. Jan Ali is a sociologist of religion (Islam). He is a lecturer in Islamic studies at the School of Humanities and Languages. He is also the community and research analyst in the Centre for the study of Contemporary Muslim Societies at the University of Western Sydney. Dr. Ali's main areas of research include: sociology of Islam, Islamic revivalism, Shariah (Islamic Law), sufism, terrorism, transnational Islamic movements, theories of social Change, Muslim women and piety, multiculturalism and social and religious movements. Dr. Ali has published several articles in international journals and book chapters. Recently he published the book *Islamic Revivalism Encounters the Modern World: A Study of the Tabligh Jamā'at.*

When: Tuesday 28 August 2012, from 6pm
Where: The Glover Cottages, 124 Kent Street, Sydney (located adjacent to the Kent St Fire Station)
Cost: AIIA members $15; Senior members / student member $10; Visitors $25; Student Visitors $15
Six months ago it looked as if Australia was on course to achieve its aim of becoming the world’s largest exporter of natural gas, overtaking Qatar. Currently Australia has $180 billion invested in new, approved, LNG projects.

But now Australia’s international goals are called into question. Costs of labour have soared, there is a serious shortage of skilled engineers and other personnel, and both Federal and state governments have created regulatory regimes that now require some 8,000 pages of submissions need to be made to get LNG plants off the ground.

On the other hand, if Australia is to play a key part in the Asian Century, countries like China, India, Japan and Korea need our gas - though the rise in competition from an unexpected source, the United States, and from Russia gives them other choices.

So how will this vital Australian industry meet these challenges? With present immigration restrictions, where will it find its engineers? How can Australia protect its environment - and its water resources - without imposing an impossible burden of red tape and delay that discourages investment?

David Byers was appointed as Chief Executive of APPEA in October 2011, the peak national body representing Australia’s oil and gas exploration and production industry. David has spent most of his career in the oil and gas industry - with Woodside, Mobil and ExxonMobil in Australia, Singapore and the United States.

In 2007, he was appointed Chief Executive of CEDA (Committee for Economic Development of Australia), a leading national economic research and policy forum.
Why History Matters
Crash and Crisis in Contemporary Europe: Lessons from History

Hosted by Sydney Ideas and An International Society Research Cluster, the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and the Department of History, University of Sydney

As Europe seems unable to extract itself from financial crisis, historians and politicians have pondered the comparison between the world of the great depression in Europe and the rise of fascism and the events that are taking shape now. Will history repeat itself as a new generation, frustrated with austerity, forgets the lessons of Europe’s traumatic history and turn to extremist solutions?

For our next Why History Matters forum, we bring together a group of distinguished historians who are experts on international economic history, democracy and the rise of political extremism in Europe. Their brief is to discuss the lessons that history can teach us in dealing with the European crisis, as a global crisis, now.

Hosted by Stephen Crittenden, arts, culture and religion correspondent for The Global Mail

PANELLISTS:

Professor Patricia Clavin, Fellow at Jesus College, Oxford and Research Director of the Modern European History Research Centre (MEHRC) in Oxford, and the editor of the Contemporary European History Journal. She is currently working on study of the League of Nation’s work in promoting economic and financial cooperation in the wake of the Great Depression.

Professor Patrizia Dogliani is a Professor of Contemporary and Modern European History at the University of Bologna. Her main areas of interest include the history of youth, youth political movements and European political ideologies such as socialism and fascism in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

Dr Marco Duranti from the Department of History at University of Sydney specialises in the history of European human rights law, and the relationship between history and memory. He is currently co-director of the Nation Empire Globe research cluster at the University of Sydney.

Professor Glenda Sluga is Professor of International History in the Department of History at the University of Sydney. She has published widely on the cultural history of international relations, the history of European nationalisms, gender history, and is interested in the history of identity and difference.

When: Tuesday 4 September 2012, 6pm
Where: Law School Foyer, The Law School Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE

Human Geography Seminar Series 2012
...Thinking Space

These sessions explore current issues and debates in human geography and the social sciences through presentations about key thinkers, cross-cutting themes, skills, methodologies and current postgraduate research. All are welcome!

Wednesday 5 September 2012
J.K Gibson-Graham
Kathie Gibson, University of Western Sydney

Wednesday 12 September 2012
Law and Geography - Josephine Gillespie

Wednesday 19 September 2012
Global Value Chain Framework and Development Strategies
Jeff Neilson

Wednesday 26 September 2012
Panel Discussion on Mid-Level Career Candidatures in Geography

Where: Conference Room 449, Madsen Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE
FACULTY OF ARTS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SYMPOSIUM:
FICTIONS OF THE STATE

6 SEPTEMBER 2012
9AM – 5:30PM
WOOLLEY COMMON ROOM
LEVEL 3
JOHN WOOLLEY BUILDING
SCIENCE ROAD
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Quentin Skinner
Queen Mary, University of London
Conal Condren
CHED, University of Queensland
Andrew Fitzmaurice
University of Sydney
Sue James
Birkbeck, University of London
Michael Rosenthal
University of Washington
Glenda Sluga
University of Sydney
Miguel Vatter
University of New South Wales

To registraters:
contact Elia Mamprin
by August 30 via
elia.mamprin@sydney.edu.au
or telephone 9351 5658

The Symposium is generously supported by the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, University of Sydney.
The Tea and coffee will be provided.

Image of the frontispiece from Thomas Hobbes’ Leviathan, taken from Librarything.com
Is There a Role Still Remaining for the States in the Australian Federation?

Michael Sexton SC

Hosted by The Sydney Law School Distinguished Speakers Program

The decisions of the High Court over the last century have largely concentrated legal and financial power in the federal government. The States continue to exist as political entities but are in many ways dependant on federal funding to carry out their traditional functions. Is this a good model for federalism in the 21st century? Is there any prospect of this trend being reversed in the decisions of the High Court? These are important issues for Australia over the coming decades.

A graduate of the law schools of the universities of Melbourne and Virginia, Michael Sexton SC, spent some years as an academic lawyer before taking up practice at the NSW Bar. Since 1998 he has been Solicitor General for New South Wales. He is co-author of the Australian text on defamation law and the author of several books on Australian politics and history. In the area of public administration he has been chairman of the NSW State Rail Authority and a board member of the NSW Public Transport Authority, the NSW Library the Sydney Writers’ Festival and the University of Technology Council.

Lawyers/barristers: attendance at this seminar is equal to 1 MCLE/CPD unit.

When: Thursday 13 September 2012, 6-7pm followed by a cocktail reception (registration from 5.30pm)
Where: Minter Ellison Room University of Sydney Law School, 173 Phillip St, Sydney - Details
Cost: $25 full fee; $20 SLS alumni; $10 USyd students
This unusual public forum addresses current political developments in Antarctica and their long-term global significance. The speakers, leading practitioners and prominent scholars from several walks of life, will address such questions as: Is Antarctica the first continent to go beyond the modern doctrine of sovereignty and, if so, is it relevant for the way we think about such matters as the global commons and how the world should be governed in the 21st century? How defective are the governing arrangements of the continent? Are they in need of serious reform? What can citizens learn from current scientific research in Antarctica?

The public forum will also pay close attention to the political challenges facing Antarctica, including damage to the local ecosystems, rivalries among states and growing pressures to open up the continent to mining operations, tourism and bio-prospecting.

The panel will be chaired by **Professor John Keane**, Director of the newly-founded Institute for Democracy and Human Rights (IDHR) and Professor of Politics at the University of Sydney.

**PANELLISTS**

**Bob Brown** was elected to the Senate in 1996, after 10 years as an MHA in Tasmania’s state parliament. In his first speech in the Senate, Bob raised the threat posed by climate change. Government and opposition members laughed at his warning of sea level rises and it has taken 10 years for them to finally begin to acknowledge the causes and effects of climate change. Bob was re-elected to the Senate in 2001. Following the election of 4 Greens senators in 2004, Bob became parliamentary leader of the Australian Greens in 2005. Bob stepped down as Leader of the Australian Greens, and then retired from the Senate in June 2012.

**Robyn Eckersley** is a Professor in Political Science in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne and Coordinator of the Faculty of Arts Master of International Relations Program. She has published widely in the fields of global environmental politics, political theory and international relations, with a special focus on the politics of climate change. Her books include *Environmentalism and Political Theory* (1992); *Political Theory and the Ecological Challenge* (2006, co-editor); and more recently *Responsibility* (2012, co-editor, with Ghassan Hage as lead editor) and *Why Human Security Matters* (2012, co-editor).

**Jeff Hansen** is Australian Director of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, an international non-profit, marine wildlife conservation organisation. Its mission is to end the destruction of habitat and slaughter of wildlife in the world’s oceans in order to conserve and protect ecosystems and species. Jeff joined Sea Shepherd in 2006 as a ground support volunteer and was invited to serve on board the M/Y Steve Irwin during 2007-2008 Antarctic Whale Defence Campaign, after which he was appointed the Australian Director.

**Gillian Triggs** is the current president of the Australian Human Rights Commission (HRC). She is a public international lawyer and a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria. She was previously Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Sydney. She has published papers and books on the World Trade Organisation, Energy and Resources Law, Law of the Sea, Territorial Sovereignty, Jurisdiction and Immunity, International Criminal Law, International Environmental Law and Human Rights.

**When:** Thursday 13 September 2012, 6pm

**Cost:** Free event with registration required

**Enquiries:** [www.sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas](http://www.sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas)
The rise of China is reshaping the world. The Western financial crisis has accelerated this process. We are already witnessing the beginnings of a Chinese economic order. The consequences, however, will be as much political, cultural, intellectual, moral and military as economic. The international order will, over time, be profoundly restructured. But what will China be like as a global power? The abiding problem in the West has been the desire to understand China through a Western prism. It does not work. Unless we understand China in its own terms we will be unable to make sense of it. And unless we understand China, we will be unable to grasp the nature of the new global order.

Martin Jacques is the author of the global best-seller *When China Rules the World: the End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order*, which was first published in 2009. It has since sold over a quarter of a million copies and been translated into eleven languages. The second edition of the book – greatly expanded, revised and updated – was published in 2012.

He is a visiting senior fellow at the London School of Economics, IDEAS, a centre for the study of international affairs, diplomacy and grand strategy, a visiting professor at Tsinghua University, and a non-resident fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, Washington DC. He has been a visiting professor at the International Centre for Chinese Studies at Aichi University in Nagoya and also at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto. In 2005-6 he was a visiting professor at Renmin University, Beijing and in 2006 a visiting senior research fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. From 2003 to 2009, he was a visiting research fellow at the Asia Research Centre, London School of Economics.

**When:** Friday 14 September 2012, 6pm  
**Where:** Law Lecture Theatre 104, New Law School, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney  
**Cost:** Free

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Asia is now undoubtedly emerging as the most economically dynamic region in the world, shifting the centre of power and influence from the Atlantic to the Pacific and possibly Indian Oceans. For the first time in our history, Australia’s largest trading partner, China, is not a member of the western alliance. Additionally, we are witnessing the re-emergence of other powers outside the formal western alliance system such as India, Indonesia and Vietnam - each with their own strategic and economic priorities and interests. It is obvious that these unprecedented developments will present opportunities and challenges to Australia. Less obvious is how best for us to navigate through, and position Australia, in such an unpredictable environment.

**Dennis Richardson, AO,** is the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and former ambassador of Australia to the United States. He was the Director-General of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation from 1996-2005 and Head of the Review of the Intelligence Community post Cold War.

**When:** Wednesday 19th September 2012, 6:00pm  
**Where:** The Seymour Centre, City Road, University of Sydney  
**Cost:** Free  
**More Information:** [http://sydney.edu.au/arts/ciss/events/?id=1586](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/ciss/events/?id=1586)
Mitchell H Hooke (Mitch) has been Chief Executive Officer of the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) since June 2002. The MCA is one of the nation’s most significant industry bodies representing minerals exploration, production and processing. Over the past two decades, Mr Hooke has made a significant contribution to the development of Australia’s trade, economic and industry policy, across the mining, food and grocery industries. He is recognised for his knowledge and strategic leadership in public policy and practical issues affecting industries’ contribution to Australia’s sustainable development. Mr Hooke is also internationally active in global policy advocacy as a member of the Full Council of the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) and Chair of its 40 member Associations Coordination Group. He is also engaged at the “coal face” of business as a Non-Executive Director of several companies based in the USA and Australia.

He was recently named the University of New England Distinguished Alumni recipient for 2010 - “in recognition of his contribution to the nation’s social and economic welfare through strategic leadership and development of public policy.”

When: Wednesday 19th September 2012, 6:30pm
Where: Law School Foyer, Law School Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney

**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: idhr@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 idhr@sydney.edu.au

**Past Issues**
Past issues of Everything Political can be found on the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights website - www.sydney.edu.au/arts/idhr