Time For A Rethink
Australia’s Foreign Policy For the Next Ten Years

Hosted by Australian Institute of International Affairs

The prime minister’s white paper, *Australia in the Asian Century*, sets out a number of well-documented and worthy aspirations, but says very little about how these will be achieved. The road map to achieve these aspirations is still very much a work-in-progress.

Similarly, the 45-page *National Security Strategy*, suddenly unveiled in early January while most of the nation was on holiday, provided a useful assessment of the medium term risks facing Australia and what we might need to defend. But at a time of substantial cuts to the defence budget, it provided few clues as to the wherewithal to make the strategy work.

Today, the rim of the Indian Ocean is an area of great uncertainty (as described in Robert Kaplan’s excellent book *Monsoon*), China is jousting with Japan and flexing its muscles in East Asia, and extending its influence in Melanesia; the United States is seeking to rekindle its influence in the region. All of Australia’s trade flows through these waters, so what are our foreign and defence policies? Do we really have foreign and defence policies based on a realistic assessment of the next decade? If one were to look at these reports in cold print, do they actually mean much?

To answer these questions and examine what Australia’s foreign policy should be over the next ten years, the AIIA in Sydney is proud to present two of Australia’s most seasoned and outstanding speakers – the diplomat John McCarthy, with an unrivalled knowledge of the chanceries’ of Asia, and Professor Michael Wesley, who holds the chair of national security at the Australian National University after a distinguished period as executive director of the Lowy Institute.

Michael Wesley is Professor of National Security at the Australian National University. His career has spanned academia, with previous appointments at the University of New South Wales, Griffith University, the University of Hong Kong, Sun Yat-sen University and the University of Sydney; government, where he worked as assistant director general for transnational issues at the Office of National Assessments; and think tanks, in which he was executive director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Professor Wesley has also served as the editor in chief of the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, a trustee of the Queensland Art Gallery and a board Member of the Australia Television Network. His most recent book,*There Goes the Neighborhood: Australia and the Rise of Asia*, won the 2011 John Button Prize for the best writing on Australian public policy.

Few diplomats have had as much experience in Asia as John McCarthy. His career in Australia’s foreign service spanned over 40 years, during which time he headed our missions in Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and India. He has also been Australian ambassador to Mexico and the United States, as well as serving a spell in Canberra as deputy secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He continues to be active in a number of major international projects, and is national president of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

When: Thursday 21 February 2013, 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
Dealing With Complex Causality in Realist Synthesis: The Promise of Qualitative Comparative Analysis
Professor Dr. Fritz Sager, University of Bern and Visiting Fellow, The University of Sydney

Hosted by the Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney

This seminar makes two arguments: first, that the four categories of context, politics, polity, and policy make an adequate framework for systematic review being both exhaustive and parsimonious; second, that the method of qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) is an appropriate methodological approach for gaining realistic results that are useful for political practice. Instead of providing unsatisfactory monocausal explanations, the approach identifies different combinations of conditions leading to a given outcome. These points are illustrated with a two-step multi-value QCA (mvQCA) of 17 transport policy cases in Switzerland.

Fritz Sager is professor of political science at the Center of Competence for Public Management at the University of Bern. His research interests involve administrative studies and theory, policy analysis and evaluation, organizational analysis, and Swiss politics. His research has been published in the Public Administration Review, Policy Analysis, Governance, Public Administration, Policy & Politics, Political Studies, West European Politics, the Journal of Urban Affairs, the American Journal of Evaluation, Public Money & Management, Evaluation, and the Swiss Political Science Review among others. In 2010, he won the Marshall E. Dimock Award for the best lead article in the Public Administration Review during the volume year 2009. Sager is currently Visiting Scholar at the University of Sydney's Department of Government and International Relations.

http://www.kpm.unibe.ch/content/center/staff/professoren/prof_dr_fritz_sager/index_eng.html.

When: Monday 25th February 2013, from 4pm
Where: Room 276, Merewether Building, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (No RSVP Required)

The Costs and Benefits of Animal Experiments
Dr. Andrew Knight, University of Sydney

Hosted by HARN: Human Animal Research Network

Few ethical issues create as much controversy as invasive experiments on animals. Some scientists claim they are essential for combating major human diseases, or detecting human toxins. Others claim the contrary, backed by thousands of patients harmed by pharmaceuticals developed using animal tests. Some claim all experiments are conducted humanely, to high scientific standards. Yet a wealth of studies has recently revealed that laboratory animals suffer significant stress, which may distort experimental results.

- Where, then, does the truth lie?
- How useful are such experiments in advancing human healthcare?
- How much do animals suffer as a result?
- And do students really need to dissect or experiment on animals?
- What are the effects on their attitudes towards them?

Bioethicist and veterinarian Dr. Andrew Knight presents more than a decade of ground-breaking scientific research, analysis and experience to provide evidence-based answers to a key question: is animal experimentation ethically justified?

Dr. Andrew Knight is an Australian-British animal ethicist. He is a European Veterinary Specialist in Welfare Science, Ethics and Law; a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, which is dedicated to advancing the ethical status of animals through academic research, teaching, and publication; and the Director of Animal Consultants International, which provides multidisciplinary expertise for animal issues. He’s also an extreme ironer and the founder of the Extreme Vegan Sporting Association, which is dedicated to vegan fitness and adventures, and allows him to occasionally escape from practicing veterinary medicine in London.

When: 26 February 2013, 12 noon - 2pm
Cost: FREE (No RSVP required)

Dr. Knight will also give a book tour guest seminar later in the evening of the same day. More information can be found here - http://sydney.edu.au/news/internationalhouse/646.html?newscategoryid=80&newsstoryid=10879
Obama and the Pivot to Asia: What means for Australia and the Region
Lord Michael Williams of Baglan

Co-Hosted by Sydney Ideas and the China Studies Centre Distinguished Speakers Series

In his lecture for the University of Sydney, Lord Michael Williams will draw on his extensive experience and knowledge in international affairs at the UN and in the British Foreign Office, as well as a number of NGOs, to discuss the implications of President Obama’s rebalancing towards Asia and what this might meant for Australia and the Pacific.

Lord Williams was the Under Secretary-General and Special Coordinator for Lebanon, United Nations. From 1999 to 2005, he was the Special Adviser to two UK Foreign Secretaries, Robin Cook (1999–2001) and Jack Straw (2001–2005). He held a number of senior positions in the United Nations in the 1990s, including Deputy Director for Human Rights, UN Mission for Cambodia; Advisor to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva; Director, Office for Children and Armed Conflict, New York.

Lord Williams is also a researcher in Middle East and Southeast Asia affairs. He received his Ph.D in politics from the University of London. He has been extensively writing about international affairs, peacekeeping and social welfare. His recent publications include Civil-Military Relations and Peacekeeping (1999), Vietnam at the Crossroads (1992), Communism, Religion and Revolt in Banten (1990).

When: Tuesday 26 February 2013, 6 - 7:30pm
Where: Law School Foyer, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (RSVP Required)

In Conversation with Ahdaf Soueif, Egyptian novelist and journalist
Hosted by Sydney Ideas

Sydney Ideas is pleased to host an evening with Egyptian writer Ahdaf Soueif, in conversation with Lucia Sorbera. Soueif will read from her body of works and discuss her latest book Cairo: my city, our revolution.

Souef was born and brought up in Cairo. A successful novelist moving between London and Cairo, she returned to Cairo when Egyptian Revolution erupted on January 25th 2011 and, along with thousands of others, called Tahrir Square home for eighteen days. As the events in Egypt unfolded, she reported for The Guardian newspaper and her access to insider information played a key role in outsider understanding of the Arab Spring. Her published account of her participation in the revolution, Cairo: My city, our revolution, is a compelling blend of reporting and memoir as she not only chronicles the minutiae of a revolution but offers a lyrical portrait of the history of a city she, and many millions of other Cairenes, love fiercely and fought to protect.

Ahdaf Soueif is the author of the bestselling novel The Map of Love (shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1999 and translated into 28 languages), as well as the well-loved In the Eye of the Sun and the collection of short stories, I Think of You. Soueif is also a political and cultural commentator and writes regularly for The Guardian in the UK and has a weekly column in al-Shorouk in Egypt. In 2007 Ms Soueif founded Engaged Events, a UK based charity. Its first organised project will be the Palestine Festival of Literature which takes place in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin and al-Khalil/Hebron.

Lucia Sorbera is a lecturer in Arabic, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Sydney. Her areas of research include the Arab novel and gender and culture in the Arab world.

When: Tuesday 26 February 2013, 6 - 7:30pm
Where: Seymour Centre, Crn City Rd and Cleveland St, Chippendale, Sydney
Cost: $20 Adults/$15 Concession. Free for university of Sydney Staff, students and Alumni (registration essential; link below)

Ahdaf Soueif is in Australia as a guest of the Perth Writers’ Festival and Adelaide Writers’ Week
What has been the relationship between anti-Semitism and the Left? When the German socialist August Bebel referred to the lingering legacy of leftist anti-Semitism as “the socialism of fools” a little more than 100 years ago, he conceived of leftist anti-Semitism as nothing more than a marginal tendency. Most scholars of anti-Semitism continue to hold the view that 19th and early 20th century anti-Semitism in the West remained peripheral to the Left.

The central premise of this study is that the relationship between the Left and anti-Semitism has been much more profound than previously believed. More specifically, our project seeks to disprove the null hypotheses that 1) the principal proponents of anti-Semitism are to be found on the right-wing of the political spectrum, 2) that left-wing anti-Semitism before the birth of Israel was a marginal tendency, and 3) left-wing anti-Semitism is a relatively new phenomenon.

We argue instead that anti-Semitism since 1789 in the West is equally a right-wing and left-wing phenomenon and that the so-called “new” left anti-Semitism is not at all new but draws directly upon traditional left-wing anti-Semitic tropes.

We will examine the evolution of leftist anti-Semitism within France, Great Britain, and Germany and demonstrate that to a great extent the origins of modern anti-Semitism have their roots in the philosophical and intellectual contributions of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century socialism.
Speakers

Jenna Price
Spokesperson for Destroy the Joint, an online community of men and women against Sexism; Columnist for the Sydney Morning Herald and the Canberra Times; Journalism and social media academic at the University of Technology, Sydney

Dr. Meredith Burgmann
Former Labor President of the NSW Legislative Council; Founder & host of the annual Ernie Awards, dedicated to highlighting misogyny in Australia; Co-author of 1000 Terrible Things Australian Men Have Said About Women

Hannah Gissane
Project coordinator at the Equality Rights Alliance; Stand-up comedian & organiser of queer & women's comedy events; Organising committee member for the Network of Women Students Australia Conference 2010

When: Saturday 2 March 2013, 12:00 noon
Where: Upstairs Function Room, The Union Hotel, 271 Pacific Highway, North Sydney
Cost: FREE (Donations Welcome)

University of Sydney Politics Society
Semester One Events

Sick of overly partisan bickering? Tired of repetitive and mundane political discussion? The Politics Society is the society on campus for non-partisan domestic and international political debate. We are the primary association for students studying Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney.

Our main priority is to host public lecture events featuring speakers who have practical or academic experience and expertise in their field. We also organise an extremely successful peer-mentoring program, and facilitate career and internship oriented events, coupled with social occasions all throughout semester.

Week One - Welcome Drinks
Join us at the United States Studies Centre to enjoy nibbles & drinks (on us!) to kick-off the new year and get to know other Govenment and International Relations students.

Week Two - Pub Trivia Quiz
Team up with friends, tutorial buddies and other students and enjoy a night of trivia (political & otherwise) at Manning Bar. Prizes!!

Week Four - How to Write a HD Essay
Get advice from Government and International Relations lecturers, tutors and first class Honours students, just before mid-Semester essay time.

Week Six - “The Media No Longer Serves the Public Interest
Does the media still serve the public? Watch the best minds in the field debate Finkelstein, regulation, Gina Rineheart, and politico-media relations.

Week Eight - Election Debate
What does September 14 mean for you? Find out in our education debate between Liberal and Labor representatives.

More Information and to Join: Jack Luxford - vice.president@supoliticsssociety.com
Earthmasters: Playing God With the Climate  
Clive Hamilton, Charles Sturt University  
Hosted by Sydney Ideas

Spraying sulphur compounds into the upper atmosphere to reduce the amount of sunlight reaching the planet? Transforming the chemistry of the world’s oceans so they soak up more carbon? These ideas sound like science fiction but technologies to ‘geoengineer’ the planet are being developed right now.

Clive Hamilton investigates the huge risks of reaching for desperate measures to save the planet, explains the science behind the ‘techno-fixes’ and uncovers the worrying motives of some of those promoting them. We can no longer ignore the push for geoengineering as a substitute for cutting carbon emissions. In a few years everyone will be talking about it, and every one of us will have to take a stance.

Clive Hamilton is Vice-Chancellor’s Chair and Professor of Public Ethics at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, Charles Sturt University, in Canberra. He has been an Academic Visitor at the University of Oxford and at Yale University. He was recently appointed a member of the Climate Change Authority. He is a member of the Royal Society’s Solar Radiation Management Governance Initiative.

He is bestselling author of books including *Requiem for a Species: why we resist the truth about climate change*, in which he discusses the philosophical dimensions of climate change denial, and *Scorcher: the dirty politics of climate change* (2007), an investigation of the power of energy industry lobbyists on the Australia political process.

**When:** Tuesday 5 March 2013, 6 - 7:30pm  
**Where:** Law School, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney  
**Cost:** FREE (RSVP Required)  

---

**Celebrating International Womans Day**  
**Inspirational Women: Ideas Worth Sharing**

Co-Hosted by Sydney Development Circle, Macquarie University’s Equity and Diversity Unit and Rotary Hunters Hill

Rotary Hunters Hill hosts a salute to women working in international development on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 from 6 to 9 pm

Open to the public, **Inspirational Women: Ideas Worth Sharing** will feature Carol Angir, Senior Program Coordinator for ActionAid’s violence against women program, Gemma Sisia, Australian founder of Tanzania’s School of St Jude and recognised as a “Global Woman of Influence” by the Australian Financial Review and Westpac, and Naomi Steer, founding National Director of Australia for UNHCR. Juliana Nkrumah AO, a migrant from Ghana who serves as multicultural community liaison program coordinator for NSW Police, will MC the event.

The event is a fundraiser for Rotary’s international projects, including the School of St Jude. African music and dance as well as light refreshments are included in the ticket price.


**When:** Wednesday 6 March 2013, 6 - 9pm  
**Where:** Macquarie University’s North Ryde campus (‘The Hub’ Building, Central Zone off Central Courtyard, C10A, Level 3)  
**Cost:** $30 adults, $20 concession - african music and light refreshments included  
**More Information and RSVPs:** [www.trybooking.com/CISR](http://www.trybooking.com/CISR) or email Leah Fitzgerald - leah.fitzgerald@mq.edu.au
Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea
Screening and Panel Discussion

Co-Hosted by Sydney Ideas and the University of Sydney Social Justice Network

Join us for a screening of the award-winning documentary, Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea, as part of its official national tour. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with the filmmaker, an academic working in the area of refugee human rights, and a former ‘boat person’ and refugee advocate.

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea is a documentary that tells the stories of asylum seekers who made the impossible decision to become ‘boat people’. In the film, Jessie Taylor and Ali Reza Sadiqi travelled across Indonesia and met with 250 asylum seekers in jails, detention centres and hostels. Through candid interviews, hidden camera footage and in the words of asylum seekers themselves, the story of the ‘refugee’ is told. What pushes people to leave home? What do they leave behind? What do they fear? Why did they choose this path? And what does it take to turn someone into a ‘boat person’?

Moderator
Dr. Laura Beth Bugg, Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy, University of Sydney

Panelists
• Dr. Susan Banki, Lecturer in Human Rights, University of Sydney
• Najeeba Wazefadost, President of Hazara Women of Australia and refugee advocate
• Jessie Taylor, Filmmaker of Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea, lawyer and refugee advocate

When: Wednesday 6 March 2013, 6 - 8pm
Where: Lecture Theatre 101, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (RSVP Required)

Launch of ‘Food Security in Asia - A Report for Policymakers’

Hosted by the Centre for International Security Studies, University of Sydney
Supported by the MacArthur Foundation

While food security remains a widely researched subject area, far too often the emphasis is on issues related to food production and availability. The impact of certain policy choices and the unequal distribution of power that often play a greater role in creating and perpetuating hunger and lack of access to food, remain under explored.

This report is the culmination of two years of research conducted by a multidisciplinary team at the University of Sydney and funded by The MacArthur Foundation.

The key findings and recommendations are focused on the following areas:
1. Population and Development: Demographic Change, Rural Development and Urbanisation
2. Land and Equity: Land Acquisitions and Access to Land
3. Freshwater Resources: Climate Change, Aquifer Depletion and Energy Security
4. Fisheries and Food Security in Littoral Asia

This launch will be an opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the research and will be of particular interest to regional academics, policymakers and stakeholders.

When: Monday 11 March 2013, 10am
Where: Law School Foyer, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (RSVP required)
RSVP: ciss@sydney.edu.au by 7th March 2013
Child poverty in the ‘Godzone’? - Evidence and actions to reduce child poverty in New Zealand
Dr Airini, The University of Auckland

As Australians like to say we are the ‘lucky country’, New Zealanders say they live in the ‘the land of plenty’. They like to believe ‘Godzone’ is a great place for children. For most children this is indeed true. But it is not true for children living in poverty. As many as 25 percent of New Zealand’s children – about 270,000 – currently live in poverty. Such figures compare unfavourably with those of Australia and many European countries.

Finding the policy mix that will get results is not simple. How can a country improve the circumstances of their most deprived children? How do you ensure your country is a great place to live for all your children? What is the role of education for solutions to child poverty? This presentation will address these questions, drawing on the report and recommended actions of a report to the New Zealand Children’s Commissioner. Hundreds of New Zealanders, including children, contributed to this report. Their voices will be included in this presentation. Overall it was clear that action is needed, now. No child should experience severe and persistent poverty, least of all in ‘the land of plenty’.

Dr Airini is Head of the School of Critical Studies in Education, The University of Auckland. She does research into equity issues in education and solutions. Airini has led national strategy and policy development in New Zealand, OECD and developing nations, and has worked for UNESCO. She was the sole education specialist invited by the New Zealand Children’s Commissioner to join the 2012 Expert Advisory Group to plan actions to overcome child poverty in New Zealand - www.education.auckland.ac.nz/ua

When: Monday 11 March 2013, 4:15 - 5:45pm
Where: Lecture Theatre 104, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (RSVP Required)

Working in No-Man’s-Land: Between Sociology and Chinese Studies
Dr. Norman Stockman, University of Aberdeen

The relationships between disciplines and area studies have been much discussed and disputed since the establishment of area studies centres from the 1940s. Many contributions to these debates have concentrated either on (meta-)theoretical issues or on political considerations, notably the geo-political impetus behind the support given to area studies in post-war USA. Some participants in these discussions also mention institutional factors, especially those of higher education, that have had effects on discipline-area studies relationships.

In this lecture, Professor Norman Stockman will draw partly on his own experience, as a sociologist who became active in Chinese studies, to explore a range of such institutional factors. He is particularly concerned to understand why the study of Chinese society has not been more fruitfully incorporated into the ‘mainstream’ of sociology more generally, an issue which has also been remarked upon in relation to other disciplines, such as anthropology, political science, and the history of science.

Dr Norman Stockman is a British sociologist with a particular interest in China. He has worked with Chinese sociologists on several collaborative research projects. These include a comparative study of women’s work and family life in China, Japan, Britain and the USA, resulting in the book Women’s Work in East and West, with Norman Bonney and Sheng Xuewen (1995), and a project on rural-urban migration in Shanghai. He has also written on social inequality in China, and is the author of Understanding Chinese Society, a general survey of the sociology of Chinese society (2000). He is a founder member and Honorary President of the University of Aberdeen Chinese Studies Group. He now has an emeritus position in the Department of Sociology, University of Aberdeen.

When: Tuesday 12 March 2013, 4 - 6:30pm
Where: Lecture Theatre 106, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (RSVP Required)
2013 CONFERENCE: THE SCOPE AND LIMITS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL

FRIDAY 15 MARCH, 2013
9.30PM-4.45PM
(registration from 9.00AM)
The Foyer (Level 2)
New Law Building F10
Eastern Avenue
University of Sydney
Camperdown Campus

PRICE (GST INCLUSIVE)
Early bird: $60
(full rate: $70)
Alumni/NGOs: $56
Full time student: $30

REGISTRATION
For further information or to register CLICK HERE
02 9351 0323
law.events@sydney.edu.au

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE
Until recently, religious freedom was taken for granted in Australia as being not only a fundamental human right, but also an essential component of a successful multicultural society. The role of government in Australia has been understood to be neutral between religions and as between faith-based and secular moral codes or values. However, times are changing, and governments are being urged by some to reduce the freedom that faith-based organisations have previously enjoyed where there is a clash with other rights or interests.

This one-day conference will explore the way in which issues of freedom of religion are now emerging as contested matters in western democracies, in particular the United States, Britain and Australia. Speakers will present ideas on these issues from a variety of perspectives.

GUEST SPEAKER
Professor Robin Fretwell Wilson is a Professor of Law at Washington & Lee University School of Law. A specialist in Family Law and Health Law, her research and teaching interests also include Insurance and Biomedical Ethics. Professor Wilson is the editor of four volumes: Health Law and Bioethics: Cases in Context (with Sandra Johnson, Joan Krause and Richard Savor, 2009); Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Liberty: Emerging Conflicts (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2008) (with Douglas Laycock and Anthony A. Picarello); Reconceiving the Family: Critique on the American Law Institute’s Principles of the Law of Family Dissolution (Cambridge University Press, 2006); and the Handbook of Children, Culture & Violence (Sage Publications, 2006) (with Nancy Dowd & Dorothy G. Singer).


Additional speakers include:
- Professor Nicholas Aroney, Faculty of Law, University of Queensland
- Dr Ghen Kravem, Sydney Law School
- Dr Ryan Messmore, President, Campion College Sydney
- Professor Patrick Parkinson, Sydney Law School
- Professor Gillian Triggs, President, Australian Human Rights Commission
- Andrea Williams, Christian Concern, UK

This conference is being presented in partnership with Freedom 4 Faith.
The Money, Media and Contemporary Culture series is made possible through an International Visiting Fellows grant from the RMIT Foundation. It is also supported by the School of Media and Communication, and the Graduate School of Business and Law at RMIT, and the following organisations:

Money, technology and financial exclusion

Monday 18 March, 10.00am - 2.30pm
GSBL Boardroom, Building 13, Level 4, Room 2 RMIT City Campus
RSVP: aastha.swaroop@rmit.edu.au

This workshop that will include a presentation and conversation by Bill Maurer, a presentation by Tom Boellstorff, and a range of short papers by RMIT researchers.

The unbearable persistence of binarisms: On the ontology of the digital

Monday 18 March, 4:30-6:00pm
GREEN BRAIN - CONF ROOM 1, Building 22 RMIT City Campus
RSVP: priyanka.willis@rmit.edu.au

In this talk Tom Boellstorff conducts a meta-analysis of his research in Indonesia and in virtual worlds, as well as the research of a number of other scholars, to make a big claim: the most fundamental issue in all of social theory is the unbearable persistence of binarisms. He explores how a rethinking of dichotomy is essential to addressing the most politically, theoretically, and methodologically significant issues in regard to digital culture. In doing so, he examines a reframed dualism as the gift of the virtual, manifested in several ways including overlay, that provides crucial insights into the ontology of the digital.

The awkward history of payment technology and financial inclusion

Tuesday 19 March, 4:30-6:00pm
GREEN BRAIN CONF ROOM 1, Building 22, RMIT City Campus
RSVP: priyanka.willis@rmit.edu.au

Despite their importance and ubiquity, payment infrastructures are little studied outside the payments industry, and within the industry the rapid development of new systems of value transfer exceeds the ability even of experts to keep up. The public lecture by Bill Maurer will address the question of the public interest in payments – the public good provided by the means of value transfer, and whether and how the state's monopoly of the legitimate means of exchange (state-issued currency) is challenged by new, private payment infrastructures, which often 'ride the rails' of public systems. The case study is mobile phone-enabled banking and payment, heralded as a boon for 'financial inclusion,' the formalizing of informal or the 'cash only' world.

Sexuality in Southeast Asia: Past, Present and Future

Thursday 21 March, 11am-3pm
Building 9, Level 2, Room 12, RMIT City Campus
RSVP: digitalethnographyrc@gmail.com

This interactive workshop will draw upon Tom Boellstorff's extensive work in Southeast Asia and presentations by other scholars to explore the past, present and future of sexuality and gender research in the region.

What we talk about when we talk about "alternative economies": From Islamic banking to local currencies

4:30-6:00pm, GREEN BRAIN Conference Room 1, Building 22
RSVP: priyanka.willis@rmit.edu.au

In the wake of the global financial crisis that began in the summer of 2008, many commentators, critics and visionaries have looked anew at contemporary and historical alternatives to dominant financial paradigms. Alternatives, it is thought, might point a way out of the current predicament, provide options for those who wish on an individual or collective basis to stand outside of mainstream finance, or inspire new blueprints for the possible. For an anthropologist, the quest to discover, adapt or adopt such alternatives is familiar enough to give pause. Drawing on examples from Islamic banking and finance and local currency movements, Bill Maurer explores the various modalities of alternative, the potential of plural and diverse economies, and the analytical assumptions inherent in separating the alternative from the modal or normative.

Bill Maurer is a cultural anthropologist who conducts research on law, property, money and finance, particularly new and experimental financial and currency forms and their legal implications. He is the Director of the Institute of Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion and the Co-Director of the Intel Science & Technology Center for Social Computing at the University of California, Irvine. He is the editor of six collections, as well as the author of Recharting the Caribbean: Land, Law and Citizenship in the British Virgin Islands (1997), Pious Property: Islamic Mortgages in the United States (2006), and Mutual Life: Limited. Islamic Banking, Alternative Currencies, Lateral Reason (2005). The latter received the Victor Turner Prize in 2005. Professor Maurer served as Special Advisor to the Royal College of Art’s Future of Money project.


The awkward history of payment technology and financial inclusion

Tuesday 19 March, 4:30-6:00pm
GREEN BRAIN CONF ROOM 1, Building 22, RMIT City Campus
RSVP: priyanka.willis@rmit.edu.au

Despite their importance and ubiquity, payment infrastructures are little studied outside the payments industry, and within the industry the rapid development of new systems of value transfer exceeds the ability even of experts to keep up. The public lecture by Bill Maurer will address the question of the public interest in payments – the public good provided by the means of value transfer, and whether and how the state's monopoly of the legitimate means of exchange (state-issued currency) is challenged by new, private payment infrastructures, which often ‘ride the rails’ of public systems. The case study is mobile phone-enabled banking and payment, heralded as a boon for ‘financial inclusion,’ the formalizing of informal or the ‘cash only’ world.

Sexuality in Southeast Asia: Past, Present and Future

Thursday 21 March, 11am-3pm
Building 9, Level 2, Room 12, RMIT City Campus
RSVP: digitalethnographyrc@gmail.com

This interactive workshop will draw upon Tom Boellstorff’s extensive work in Southeast Asia and presentations by other scholars to explore the past, present and future of sexuality and gender research in the region.

What we talk about when we talk about “alternative economies”: From Islamic banking to local currencies

4:30-6:00pm, GREEN BRAIN Conference Room 1, Building 22
RSVP: priyanka.willis@rmit.edu.au

In the wake of the global financial crisis that began in the summer of 2008, many commentators, critics and visionaries have looked anew at contemporary and historical alternatives to dominant financial paradigms. Alternatives, it is thought, might point a way out of the current predicament, provide options for those who wish on an individual or collective basis to stand outside of mainstream finance, or inspire new blueprints for the possible. For an anthropologist, the quest to discover, adapt or adopt such alternatives is familiar enough to give pause. Drawing on examples from Islamic banking and finance and local currency movements, Bill Maurer explores the various modalities of alternative, the potential of plural and diverse economies, and the analytical assumptions inherent in separating the alternative from the modal or normative.

Bill Maurer is a cultural anthropologist who conducts research on law, property, money and finance, particularly new and experimental financial and currency forms and their legal implications. He is the Director of the Institute of Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion and the Co-Director of the Intel Science & Technology Center for Social Computing at the University of California, Irvine. He is the editor of six collections, as well as the author of Recharting the Caribbean: Land, Law and Citizenship in the British Virgin Islands (1997), Pious Property: Islamic Mortgages in the United States (2006), and Mutual Life: Limited. Islamic Banking, Alternative Currencies, Lateral Reason (2005). The latter received the Victor Turner Prize in 2005. Professor Maurer served as Special Advisor to the Royal College of Art’s Future of Money project.

China Under Xi Jinping: after who, what?
Professor Bo Zhiyue, East Asian Institute of the National University of Singapore
Co-Hosted by Sydney Ideas and The China Studies Centre Distinguished Speakers Series

With the conclusion of the 18th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party in November 2012, China has officially entered the era of Xi Jinping. A princeling who took over as general secretary of the Party and chairman of the Central Military Commission, Xi will also succeed Hu Jintao as president of the People’s Republic of China in March 2013.

In this lecture, Professor Bo Zhiyue, a leading scholar on China’s elite politics, will provide a brief introduction to the new leadership under Xi Jinping and speculate what policies this new leadership is likely to adopt for China’s political, economic, and social development in the next five to ten years.

Professor Bo Zhiyue is a Visiting Professor at the China Studies Centre, University of Sydney and Senior Research Fellow at the East Asian Institute of the National University of Singapore. He has taught at Peking University, Roosevelt University, the University of Chicago, American University, St John Fisher College, Tarleton State University, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is a recipient of the Trustees’ Distinguished Scholar Award at St. John Fisher College and the inaugural holder of the Joe and Theresa Long Endowed Chair in Social Sciences at Tarleton State University.

His research interests include China’s elite politics, Chinese provincial leaders, central-local relations, cross-strait relations, and Sino-American relations. He is the author of a trilogy on Chinese political elites and elite politics: Chinese Provincial Leaders: Economic Performance and Political Mobility since 1949 (2002); China’s Elite Politics: Political Transition and Power Balancing (2007); and China’s Elite Politics: Governance and Democratization (2010).

When: Tuesday 19 March 2013, 6 -7:30pm
Where: Law School Foyer, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (RSVP Required)

The Social Sciences and Climate Change: Structuring the Sources of Distrust
Professor Andy Hoffman, University of Michigan
Co-Hosted by Sydney Ideas, Sydney Business School and the Sydney Network on Climate Change and Society, University of Sydney

The debate around climate change has moved beyond carbon dioxide levels and climate models and is increasingly about values, culture, worldviews and ideology. Can the social sciences like psychology, sociology, anthropology and political science, offer a clear and concise framework for understanding why people reject the scientific consensus? While physical scientists explore the mechanics and implications of anthropogenic climate change, social scientists explore the cultural reasons why people support or reject their scientific conclusions.

Scientists do not hold the definitive final word in the public debate on this issue. There is a constituency beyond scientific experts, and the processes by which this constituency understands and assesses the science of climate change goes far beyond its technical merits and a simple assessment of scientific models. Beliefs about God, the role of government, trust in the market, the value of nature and faith in science are just some of the deeply held beliefs, worldviews and values that social scientists can examine.

Andy Hoffman is the Holcim (US) Professor of Sustainable Enterprise at the University of Michigan. Within this role, Andy also serves as Director of the Frederick A. and Barbara M. Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise.

He has published over a dozen books, which have been translated into five languages. His work has been covered in numerous media outlets, including the New York Times, Scientific American, Time, the Wall Street Journal and National Public Radio. He has served on research committees for the National Academies of Science, the Johnson Foundation, the Climate Group, the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development and the Environmental Defense Fund.

When: Wednesday 20 March 2013, 6 - 7:30pm
Where: Law School Foyer, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (RSVP Required)
Scandal of the Trial: HPV Vaccines, Public Health and Knowledge/Value
Associate Professor Kaushik Sunder Rajan, University of Chicago

Co-Hosted by Sydney Ideas and the Biopolitics of Science Network, University of Sydney

In early April 2010, the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) halted a project that involved the experimental administration of Gardasil, a vaccine developed by Merck used to prevent human papilloma virus (HPV) infection, in Bhadrachalam, in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. The study was shut down because of apparent reports of violations of ethical guidelines. An immediate focal point of controversy was that Bhadrachalam is a predominantly tribal area, and questions were asked about conducting a study on tribal girls. This controversy developed into a full-blown controversy in its own right, but has also become the focal point of emergent civil society advocacy in India against unethical clinical trials.

Kaushik Sunder Rajan describes this controversy as an entry point into a broader consideration of the politics around pharmaceuticals and health in India today. How do these politics emerge in relation to global logics of biocapital? In what ways does public health get conscripted into, and changed in the process of, articulations with these global logics? What kinds of experimental subjectivity get produced as a consequence? He will argue that what is at stake here is the re-theorisation of knowledge, of value, and of the nature of their articulation, and the necessity of asking questions of the ethical and the political in the light of such re-theorisations.

Kaushik Sunder Rajan is Associate Professor of Anthropology and of Social Sciences at the University of Chicago. He initially trained as a biologist and works on the anthropology of science, technology and medicine. His work has focused on a number of interrelated events and emergences. His book, Biocapital: The Constitution of Post-Genomic Life, tries to capture a flavor of these emergences.

When: Tuesday 26 March 2013, 6 - 7:30pm
Where: Law School Foyer, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (RSVP Required)

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