President Obama’s Health Care Reform: The Supreme Court and the Future of the American Health System
Professor Lawrence Gostin, Georgetown University

Co-Hosted by Distinguished Speakers Program, Faculty of Law and US Studies Centre

Nearly 30 years after President Nixon proposed the first major overhaul of the health care system, comprehensive reform became a reality when President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) on March 23, 2010. The ACA is expected to cover 32 million currently uninsured people by expanding Medicaid, offering subsidies to purchase insurance, and prohibiting pre-existing condition exclusions. Like Presidents Carter and Clinton before him, Barack Obama campaigned on a promise of health care reform.

Opposition to the ACA was immediate. At least 26 federal lawsuits were filed challenging its constitutionality. The U.S. Supreme Court has allotted an unprecedented 5 1/2 hours for oral arguments on four issues: the individual purchase mandate, severability, the Medicaid expansion, and the Anti-Injunction Act. This is a rare moment in America’s history where the Supreme Court could determine whether the United States coalesces behind an historical health system reform or retreats from it.

Professor Lawrence Gostin is the Linda and Timothy O’Neill Professor of Global Health Law, Georgetown University, Washington DC, where he directs the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law. Professor Gostin is also the Director of the World Health Organisation’s Collaborating Centre on Public Health Law and Human Rights. He holds numerous editorial appointments in prestigious academic journals throughout the world.

When: Wednesday 23 May, 6:00pm (lecture followed by cocktail reception)
Where: Law School Foyer, Eastern Avenue, the University of Sydney
Cost: $25 full fee; $20 SLS alumni; $10 USydney students
Enquiries and Tickets: 02 9351 0248 or law.events@sydney.edu.au

Democracy in Indonesia - How is it Shaping Up?
Professor Ketut Putra Erawan, Institute for Peace and Democracy

Hosted by Graduate School of Government

Dr. Erawan is the Executive Director of the Institute for Peace and Democracy launched by the President of Indonesia in 2008. IPD is an international institute with ties to Asian countries and comparable institutions in Australia, Europe and the U.S. Dr. Erawan is also the Special Advisor for the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

As the Executive Director of the Institute for Peace and Democracy, in 2008-10, Dr. Erawan served as member of the Indonesian delegation in the Bali Democracy Forum. In addition, he chairs and serves as source person in the joint programs between IPD and its partners held in Bali, Jakarta, Canberra, Manila and Japan.

He is a member of the Steering Committee for the Australia and Indonesia Governance Research Partnership and consultant to the World Bank, World Bank Institute, UNDP and various Indonesian agencies.

Dr. Erawan’s expertise is in comparative politics (parties and elections, constitutional and institutional design and women in politics), public policy (decentralisation and program evaluation), political methodology and political economy.

When: Thursday 24 May 2012, 12:45pm
Where: Law School Foyer, Eastern Avenue, the University of Sydney
Enquiries: Leanne Howie - gsg.rsvp@sydney.edu.au
Dissatisfied Democrats?
Emeritus Professor Hans Dieter-Klingemann, WZB (Berlin)
Co-Hosted by the 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 generalisations 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

Money and the 2012 American Elections
Professor Richard H. Pildes, New York University
Hosted by Constitutional Reform Unit, University of Sydney

The 2012 American presidential election has already seen an explosion not just in the amount of money being spent, but in the sources of that money and the new organisational forms that are quickly becoming dominant players in the electoral process. In particular, newly emergent organisations outside the formal political parties and the candidates’ campaigns known as “SuperPacs” have quickly come to be at least as important in raising and spending money as the parties and the campaigns themselves. These SuperPacs are a uniquely American phenomenon.

Nearly all commentary on these new organisations treats their emergence as having been caused by the Supreme Court’s controversial Citizens United decision, in which the Court held that corporations and unions have constitutional free speech rights to engage in unlimited electoral spending. This talk will take issue with that view. Despite the fact that these entities emerged directly in the aftermath of the Court’s decision, Citizens United is not the reason these organisations have exploded onto the electoral scene. The talk explores the question of why, among those critical of the rise of SuperPacs, there is such a strong temptation to view Citizens United as the “root of all evil” in the financing of American elections.

Professor Pildes is the Sudler Family Professor of Constitutional Law (New York University). He and his co-authors created the law of democracy as a field of study in the law schools, and his scholarship focuses on legal issues concerning the design of democratic processes and government, as well as constitutional, administrative, and national-security law. He is the author of more than 50 major academic articles and is the co-author of the casebook, The Law of Democracy and a co-editor of the book, The Future of the Voting Rights Act.

When: Monday 28 May 2012, 12:30 - 2:00pm
Where: Faculty Common Room, Level 4, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney

National Reconcilliation Week 2012
26 May - 1 June 2012
National Reconciliation Week 2012
26 May - 1 June 2012

Each year Reconciliation Week is held between 27 May and 3 June to commemorate two very important dates in Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian relations.

27 May is the Anniversary of the 1967 referendum when 90% of Australians voted to remove clauses, which discriminated against Indigenous Australians, from the Australian Constitution. This also gave the Federal Government power to make laws on behalf of Indigenous Australians.

3 June is the Anniversary of the High Court’s handing down of the judgement made on the Mabo case, in which Eddie Mabo argued that Murray Islanders’ rights to their land were not extinguished by the annexation of the islands by the State of Queensland. The Court agreed and ‘terra nullius’ – the idea that Australia had been empty of people when settled by the British – was abandoned.

What’s On?

Saturday 26 May - Saturday 2 June

Bindjareb Pinjarra
To mark National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week 2012, we present Bindjareb Pinjarra - a brilliant improvised comedy about WA’s Pinjarra Massacre.

Created and performed by Nyoongar and Wadjella (whitefella) actors, Bindjareb Pinjarra demonstrates extra-ordinary risk taking through its fusion of history, outrageous comedy and physical theatre. Bindjareb Pinjarra is comical, heartfelt and demonstrates how black and white Australians are all part of the same history.

Where: York Theatre, Seymour Centre
Times: Mon - Fri 10:30am, Sat 7.30pm

Wednesday 30 May

Casey Donovan: an Intimate Concert
Singing songs for reconciliation and from her soon to be released album “Love and Goodbye”.

The past few years have been massive for this impressive female vocalist. Casey’s portrayal of Cynthia in the hit musical The Sapphires, presented by Company B Belvoir and Black Swan State Theatre Company, received rave reviews in Australia, London and Korea and her performance as Mama Cass in the Melbourne production of new Australian musical Flowerchildren was critically acclaimed.

Where: Sound Lounge, Seymour Centre
Time: 8pm

Thursday 31 May

I’m Not A Racist But... Co-Presented by the NSW Reconciliation Council and the Seymour Centre

To further stimulate conversations about racism in Australia, the NSW Reconciliation Council has pulled together a panel of diverse Australians who all have something to say. You can have your say too. Please submit your comments via our facebook page; you will also be able to join the conversation via Twitter.

The panel will include Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr. Helen Szoke, Fear of a Brown Planet’s Nazeem Hussain, UN Youth Ambassador, Benson Saulo and comedian Jennifer Wong. The evening will be hosted by ABC’s Steve Cannane and will feature music from Ngaratya.

Where: York Theatre, Seymour Centre
Time: 7:30pm
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
Economies of Education and Social In/Ex/clusion.
Ian Davis and Dr. Guy Redden, University of Sydney
Co-Hosted by Constitutional Reform Unit, University of Sydney

Ian Davis talks on the Teaching Men Study. It focuses on a group of male teachers, from Australia and the UK, working within TAFE/FE environments, who as adults have shifted their professional identities to become teachers. Using narrative qualitative data collected from interviews, alongside a Deleuzian theoretical frame, the study addresses a specific question: Can fictional representations of male teachers impact on the construction and practice of teachers in their development of a new professional identity?

Dr Guy Redden talks on whether schools can be socially progressive. My School was directly inspired by U.S. frameworks mandated by the ‘No Child Left Behind’ legislation and is predicated on the idea that if stakeholders have data about school performance (based on standardised test results) they will hold educators to account, thus facilitating continual improvement in schools.

About Ian Davis - As a teacher of fourteen years, his research informs educational policy and supports innovative approaches to working with gender within pedagogical practice. Mr. Davis is currently a PhD candidate at Griffith University. In an earlier life he worked as a Mental Health social worker and lectured at The University of the West of England and University College Northampton on the degree pathway in social work with a specialism in Young People and Mental Health.

About Guy Redden - Dr Guy Redden’s research and teaching interests include: Consumer culture, alternative cultures (including online), religion, lifestyle television, cross-cultural encounters, cultural theory.

Dr Redden’s research revolves around the relationships between culture and economy. Among his interests are commodification, alternative cultures, and the moralisation of consumption/lifestyle. He is also interested in the nature and scope of the discipline of cultural studies and the potential of online academic publishing, having previously been an editor of M/C: A Journal of Media and Culture.

Inspiring Change: From Grassroots Organising to Global Networking
Bastu Rege, Santulan
Hosted By Sydney Development Circle

After witnessing a stone crusher accident which caused the tragic death of a child, Bastu Rege dedicated his life to the reform of the stone quarrying sector in India. With a background in both social work and law, Bastu established the non-government organisation Santulan not only to organise workers at a grassroots level to meet their basic needs, but also to successfully lobby government for legislative changes in the mining and quarry sectors across India.

One of the main issues that Santulan has worked on is that of child labour. Children living on stone quarry sites belong to one of the most disadvantaged groups in India. From the age of eight, children work up to fourteen hours a day digging, breaking and loading stones in toxic and hazardous environments. Disturbingly, Bastu says that the Indian Government does not acknowledge the high incidence of child labour in mines and is not addressing this problem. Come and hear about Santulan’s innovative child-centred education program. Be inspired by Bastu’s stories of change through education reform, advocacy, unionizing, and sheer hard work.

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.

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Hunger is the world’s number one health risk. It kills more people every year than AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. The world produces enough food to feed everyone yet one in seven people on our planet go to bed hungry each night.

In recent years, this problem has been compounded by changing weather conditions, escalating food prices, the global financial crisis, and the soaring demand for land as investors look for places to grow food for export, biofuels, or as an investment.

For already impoverished communities, this means that not only has land become even more out of reach, but all too often people are kicked off their land, in some cases forcibly and without compensation, after having been there for several generations. Loss of land can also deeply affect identity and connections to culture and tradition. For women, who have key responsibilities for feeding their families and for sustaining culture, loss of rights and access to land poses a huge challenge.

Competition for land is a constant factor in human history. It’s not necessarily a problem when wealthy companies invest in agricultural land in poor countries for commercial use. But when families are displaced with nowhere to go, people are unable to feed themselves and livelihoods are taken away as a result, that’s a very big problem indeed.

By 2050, it is estimated that demand for food will have grown by 70% globally. Can we meet this demand? How can we manage competition for land in a way that is fair to those who have the least power? And what are the rights and responsibilities of corporate investors?

Confirmed speakers include Kelly Bent, Oxfam Australia; and Michael Whitehead, ANZ

**When:** Wednesday 6 June, 2012, 6pm  
**Where:** The Seymour Centre  
**Enquiries:** Meredith Hall - meredith.hall@sydney.edu.au  

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**Thursday 7 June 2012**

**Political Marketing and Political Leadership: Leading Through Partnership**  
**Dr. Jennifer Lees-Marshment, University of Auckland**

This presentation will report the results from a comparative study, including 100 in depth interviews with political elites about political marketing, and discuss the implications of political marketing for leadership. Politicians often become out of touch and marooned on Planet Politics and lose popularity, so need to follow the market to some extent, but using marketing need not prevent leadership. Not only is just following the latest poll or focus groups sometimes seen as anti-democratic, it does not always win.

Leaders can use marketing to achieve change and progress, stay in touch without just following public opinion and respond in a range of ways to market demand. Furthermore, there is a sense of a changing relationship with the public where politicians work more in partnership with citizens; not ignoring or lamely following their demands, but combining public input and leadership expertise to create workable solutions.

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

**More information can be found at:**  
As the Greek fiscal situation threatens to envelop the whole country in a political crisis, Australians with a connection to Greece watch the unfolding events with a mixture of anxiety and despair. Financial crisis followed by political instability, the rise of right-wing extremism and the collapse of the traditional system of governance create an explosive mixture of circumstances that could lead the country out of the European Union and the Euro. An isolated Greece in a state of bankruptcy looks like more than a possibility on the horizon today.

The University of Sydney brings together a panel of Australian commentators with a spectrum of views and opinions on the way forward for the country of their ancestors.

Introduction by Professor Jeff Riegel, Head of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney

Panellists:

- **Associate Professor Vras Karalis**, Department of Modern Greek, School of Languages and Cultures, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Moderator)
- **Professor Tony Aspromourgos**, School of Economics, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- **The Hon. Sophie Cotsis MLC**, NSW Parliament
- **Mr Vassileios M. Tolios**, The Consul General for Greece, Sydney Consulate General
- **The Hon. Maria Vamvakinos MP**, Federal Member for Calwell, Victoria

**When**: Thursday 7 June 2012, 6pm
**Where**: Assembly Hall, Ground Floor, St James Campus (Old Law School), 173-175 Phillip St, Sydney
**Cost**: $25 full price/ $20 University of Sydney staff, students and Alumni (includes refreshments) - [http://sydney.edu.au/seymour/boxoffice/program.greekcrisis.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/seymour/boxoffice/program.greekcrisis.shtml)
**Enquiries**: Meredith Hall - meredith.hall@sydney.edu.au

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**International Society Research Cluster**

**Museums and Human Rights**

Associate Professor Jennifer Barrett, University of Sydney

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Boardroom (N301)
(map below)

Friday 8th of June 8 2012
12 noon - 1.30pm
The relationship between the concept of culture and that of human rights has long been complex and contentious. For anthropologists the effects of this symbiotic relationship between culture and human rights can be discerned at a number of different levels. It has been a key point of debate in the development of anthropological codes of ethics. Human rights, in their discursive and institutional contexts, have become another thematic aspect of anthropologists’ subject matter – rights have been assimilated to culture.

The capacity to participate in the dialogue between rights and culture has become integral to the political negotiation and ethical evaluation of fieldwork in many contemporary contexts. Nevertheless, distinctively historical and political perspectives in anthropological writing have also generated substantial critiques, not only of human rights discourse, but of the ways it has been mobilised in particular social and political contexts.

KEYNOTE

Culture, History, Rights and Responsibilities: A Para/Ethnographic Perspective
Associate Professor Samuel Martínez, Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut

"Drawing from my field research on the rights mobilizations of people of Haitian ancestry in the Dominican Republic, as well as comparative case study material, I sketch a ‘para-ethnographic’ approach premised on tracking the praxis of frontline human rights activists and comparing this with the methods and representations of varied cohorts of international activists. Both ethnographers and human rights investigators are thereby demoted from ‘the expert’ to one expert among several (indigenous and expatriate), with implications to be discussed for dialogues on culture and rights."

Enquiries: Katarina Ferro - katarina.ferro@sydney.edu.au
More Information: http://anthropologycultureandrights.wordpress.com/

Rethinking Invasion Ecologies: Natures, Cultures and Societies In the Age of the Anthropocene

Hosted by The Environmental Humanities Group, The University of Sydney

18 - 19 June 2012, Law School Foyer, New Law School, University of Sydney

Charles Elton’s 1958 classic The Ecology of Invasions by Plants and Animals signaled a shift in the understanding of the global movement of biological species during the Anthropocene. Over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, new plants, animals and humans migrated to settler colonies, at the same time that biological material and ideas about nature transited to other parts of the world. Some species became threats to local environments across the globe. By the 1950s, acclimatisation and naturalization gave way to managing the ramifications of changes to ecologies, landscapes and environments. These changes had enduring impacts, some adverse, some beneficial, that are dynamic, unpredictable and often oscillating. This conference explores environmental thought about invasion ecologies for the Anthropocene and asks: How will biological and cultural invasions of the past impact on the futures of climate changing places? How should we think about the more-than-human roles of camels and carp; or willows and baobabs? What of the plants, animals, people and ideas that travelled and re-made other global places?

Speakers include:
Harriet Ritvo (MIT)
Libby Robin (ANU)
Haripriya Rangan (Monash)
Eric Pawson (Canterbury)
Simon Pooley (Oxford)

Enquiries: Katherine Anderson - katherine.anderson@sydney.edu.au
*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