‘Collaborative Struggle’ Conference
University of Wollongong

Co-Hosted by Institute for Social Transformation Research and the School of History and Politics, Faculty of Arts, University of Wollongong

When: 24th - 25th September 2012
Where: University of Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia

‘Life in the Anthropocene’ Conference
Call For Papers
AASG@Sydney: Life in the Anthropocene
8-9 July 2013
5th Biennial Conference of the Australian Animal Studies Group

Keynotes Speakers: Cary Wolfe, Sarah Whatmore, Peter Sankoff, Paul McGreevy, Kate Rigby and Siobhan O’Sullivan

The Anthropocene describes a period of geological time dominated by homosapiens and marked by the significant impact of human activity on the planet. If the cultural and scientific moment of the Anthropocene puts ‘us’ in our place, then it is time to reconsider our place with them, the other animals.

This 5th Conference of the Australian Animal Studies Group will bring together voices from a wide range of disciplines and beyond the Academy to examine how new knowledge of human–animal relations requires novel starting points, critical tools and cross-disciplinary connections.

We welcome papers that explore the implications of living in the Anthropocene for human–animal relationships. What is the impact of human activity upon non-human life? How do lessons from the past shed light on present and future orientations? How do different disciplines, institutions and groups - community, government and activist - respond to the myriad issues raised by living in the Anthropocene?

Potential themes include:
Wildness, re-wilding and conservation
Rethinking evolution
Biodesign, breeding, domestication
Imagining human–animal futures
Animals and the law, media and public policy

Deadline for submission of abstract: 7 December 2012.
To register attendance and submit an abstract please visit the conference website: http://aasgconference.com/

Conference Details:
Date: 8 – 10 July 2013
Time: 9am – 5pm
Location: New Law Building, Eastern Avenue, Camperdown Campus, University of Sydney
Many Poles live in a near-perpetual state of paranoia. Still, as Andy Grove, the founder of Intel, once memorably said, “You have to be paranoid to survive”.

Poland has just one national priority; preserving its identity and independence. Its people have history etched into their DNA. The memories of many invaders who brought their armies across the North European Plain, the holocaust, the occupation by Nazi Germany, the brutality of Stalin, and the long years of dominance by the former Soviet Union.

Modern Poland – and indeed it is modern - now looks to its future within the European Union and NATO. But it is also these two institutions that are responsible for Poland’s current fears about its long-term security. Can they be trusted? What happens if Russia’s president Vladimir Putin flexes his muscles even more and seeks to regain the sway Moscow once held over Warsaw? Are the Poles right to feel insecure?

Colin Chapman, president of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, Sydney, has just returned from a ten day visit to Poland as a guest of the Polish government. He met with government officials, defence specialists and think tanks all in a state of angst about the country’s long-term future. Poland has done well in recent years, but its sense of history still makes it feel insecure.

Colin will describe why the Poles are still angry at the cancellation by President Barack Obama of the anti-ballistic missile system that was to be built on their soil, and are pressing for a NATO replacement, and why they want to see American troops in their country. He will explain Warsaw’s efforts to help the European Union survive, and how Russia and France are fostering environmentalist efforts to obstruct the development of Polish shale gas.
Thursday 4 October 2012

Social Democracy in Uncertain Times: Governing the Politics and Economics of Emotion
Professor Carol Johnson, University of Adelaide

This seminar argues that economic governance involves not just governing the domestic economy and, increasingly, the impact of international markets on it, but also governing the political economy of affect. Indeed, contemporary Western governments face particular challenges as they negotiate turmoil in global markets, the rise of Asia and the relative decline of the West, with implications for feelings of security, uncertainty and fear of the “Other”. Professor Johnson draws on examples from a range of countries, including Britain and the US, although with particular emphasis on Australia. Australian social democratic governments, like their international counterparts, have not just been concerned with governing the economy and society. They have also been concerned with governing the politics and political economy of emotion, particularly in regard to feelings of economic and social security and the politics of fear. Nonetheless, Australian social democracy's embrace of aspects of neo-liberalism has had unintended implications for their ability to construct an alternative emotional regime to that of their opponents. The implications for comparative studies of social democracy, and for the increasing literature on the economics and politics of emotion are also identified.

Thursday 25 October 2012

Mobilisation Dynamics and the Fluidity of Organised Interest Populations: Evidence from Scottish Public Policy
Associate Professor Darren Halpin, Australian National University
Herschel F. Thomas, University of Texas, Austin

The political science literature has spent considerable time quantifying the size of organised interest populations. A central finding has been the 'explosion' of organisations engaged in public policy over time. The apparent year on year growth in group populations raises several questions about the dynamics underpinning growth. Growth fits with the group theory emphasis on formation issues: size reflects underlying - and increasingly complex - interest structures. But, on the other hand, most scholars accept that populations are very fluid and that growth must be somehow limited. For instance, at face value, growth does seem to offend the logic of population ecology arguments that emphasize competition for viability among groups. This seminar tests these different arguments, utilising population data covering organised interest participation in Scottish public policy. We use a data set that documents mobilisation by more than 18,000 discrete actors on more than 1600 issues over a twenty-five year period; 1982-2007. The longitudinal data provides a chance to test the explanations of the processes that drive the undoubted fluidity of organised interest populations. Among other discoveries, we note a distinction between a constantly engaged core of policy professionals and a very ephemeral set of policy amateurs. Lessons are drawn with respect to the comparative literature on organised interest populations.

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

International Society Research Cluster

"Amnesty"
Professor Michael Humphrey, University of Sydney

Kevin Lee Room, Level 6, Quadrangle Building, University of Sydney
Friday 5 October 2012
12 noon - 1.30pm

http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/international_society.shtml
For any enquiries, please contact Glenda Sluga – Glenda.sluga@sydney.edu.au
Is There A Crisis of Democracy?
Professor Wolfgang Merkel, WZB
Co-Hosted by Sydney Ideas, the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, the Australian Research Council and the Sydney Social Justice Network

Public talk of a deepening crisis of democracy is ubiquitous today in Europe, the United States, Latin America and elsewhere. Inspired by Joseph Schumpeter’s classic *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, Wolfgang Merkel examines whether and to what extent there is evidence for such a crisis. In a bold and broad-ranging look at the great conflicting trends of our time, he probes such phenomena as the long-term impact of migration, growing social inequality, the decline of political parties, austerity politics, individualisation and the rise of the critical citizen. With an eye on topical events, such as the unresolved Eurozone crisis, Merkel asks whether these powerful trends are having irresponsibly ruinous effects on democracy or whether, on the contrary, these trends may turn out to be triggers for improving the methods and substance of democracy as we know it.

Professor Wolfgang Merkel is Germany’s best-known political scientist. He is Director of the “Democracy and Democratisation” research program at the Social Science Research Centre Berlin (WZB) and Professor of Political Science at the Humboldt University Berlin. He is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and advisor to many European governments. He is also a non-party member of the Basic Values Commission of the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) and a member of the social sciences review board of the German Research Foundation (DFG).

When: Thursday 4 October 2012, 6pm
Where: Law School Foyer, The Law School, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE

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Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, the Australian Research Council and The Sydney Social Justice Network
Present a Master Class on

‘The Future of the Welfare State’

With
Professor Wolfgang Merkel
Social Science Research Centre Berlin (WZB)

Friday 5 October 2012
10am – 3pm (lunch will be provided)

SoPHI Common Room, Level 8, Brennan McCallum Building
The University of Sydney

Professor Wolfgang Merkel is Germany’s best-known political scientist. He is Director of the “Democracy and Democratisation” research program at the Social Science Research Centre Berlin (WZB) and Professor of Political Science at the Humboldt University Berlin. He is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and advisor to many European governments. He is also a non-party member of the Basic Values Commission of the Executive Committee of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) and a member of the social sciences review board of the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Please RSVP: zoe.morrison@sydney.edu.au
Politics in the Pub - Sydney

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 5 October 2012

The US Election: War on Government, Health, Women and Everything

Speakers:
Kate Gleeson, Macquarie University
Brendan O’Connor, US Studies Centre, University of Sydney

Friday 12 October 2012

Extreme Homelessness (105,000) - Another Government Sell-Out

Speakers:
John Down AO, International Commission Jurists
Speaker from Homelessness Advocacy Group

Friday 19 October 2012

Mental Health - The Orphan in Gillard Government’s Health ‘Reforms’

Speakers:
Professor Anthony Harris, University of Sydney and Schizophrenia Fellowship
Rob Ramjam, Schizophrenia Fellowship

Friday 26 October 2012

New National Security Enquiry: New Threats to Democracy

Speakers:
Nicola McGarrity, University of New South Wales
Bernard Keane, Crickey.com


The Refugee Invasion: Potential Threat? Media Hype? Humanitarian Disaster?

Speakers

Dr Maryanne Loughry RMS OA
Associate Director, Jesuit Refugee Service Australia; International refugee advisor; Member of the Australian Government’s Advisory Council for Immigration Services

Anne Henderson
Deputy Director, The Sydney Institute; Contributor to The Canberra Times, The Age, The Australian and The Sydney Morning Herald.

Professor Jock Collins
Professor of Social Economics, UTS; Author of nine books including Bin Laden in the Suburbs

When: Saturday 6 October 2012, 12:00 noon
Where: Upstairs Function Room, The Union Hotel, 271 Pacific Highway, North Sydney
Cost: FREE (Donations Welcome)
Explore the complexity of the refugee experience and the resettlement process in Australia with our special guest facilitator Mohamed Dukuly. Mohamed works as a Families in Cultural Transition Project Officer with the NSW Service for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS).

Through his own lived experience and work at STARTTS, Mohamed will discuss complex issues faced by many refugees in Australia. He will also include tips and strategies on how to work effectively with refugees. Mohamed will emphasise the importance of safety, control and trust in building relations with people from refugee backgrounds.

Refugees arrive in Australia in a variety of ways, not only as asylum seekers, but regardless of how they arrive many refugees have experienced multiple traumatic events which include torture and other forms of violence, deprivation of basic needs, extended periods of uncertainty, loss and a lack of safety.

Mohamed was born in Liberia and later sought refuge in Nigeria fleeing from the civil war in Liberia. He arrived in Australia in 2005 and has more than 7 years of experience in group facilitation for refugee individuals and families. In addition to his work at STARTTS, Mohamed is also a qualified Family Dispute Resolution practitioner.

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 8 October 2012, 6pm
Where: UTS Broadway Campus, Room 580, Level 5, 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

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**China and the Fifth Generation Leadership: China Moves into the Era of Socio Political Change**

Professor Kerry Brown, China Studies Centre, University of Sydney

Co-Hosted by The China Studies Centre Distinguished Lectures and Sydney Ideas

The Communist Party of China is about to undergo a major leadership transition. The era of Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao is drawing to a close. They have guided the People's Republic of China towards becoming the world's second largest economy – but they leave power in a country where over 120 million people are still living in poverty, and where there are immense challenges in terms of inequality, social stability and a sustainable economic future. This talk will look at how we can assess the Hu and Wen period, and how the future leaders will deal with a transition into an era in which the greatest challenges will be socio-political. It will look at the likely scenarios the Communist Party will face as it moves towards middle income status by 2020, and it will try to answer the question of what China might look like at the end of the next decade.

Professor Kerry Brown is Executive Director of the China Studies Centre, and Professor of Chinese Politics at the University of Sydney. He leads the Europe China Research and Advice Network (ECRAN), funded by the European Commission. Prior to this he was Head of the Asia Programme at Chatham House. Educated at Cambridge, London and Leeds Universities, he worked in Japan, and the Inner Mongolian region of China, before joining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. He worked in the China Section and then served as First Secretary, Beijing, from 2000 to 2003, and Head of the Indonesia East Timor Section at the FCO from 2003 to 2005.


When: Tuesday 16 October 2012, 6pm
Where: Law School Foyer, The Law School, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE
President Obama has expressed his fear that America was becoming ‘a country where a shrinking number of people do really well, while a growing number of Americans barely get by’. Given the numbers, he’s right to be afraid. Since 1973, US economic output has doubled in per-capita terms, yet wages have declined by 20% for the average 30-year-old. In contrast, high-income Americans have seen their incomes skyrocket and their taxes come down. Never in living memory has America been so unequal as it is today. Republicans criticise the President for trying to divide America into ‘haves and have-nots’, calling for policies to ‘restore an America of hope and upward mobility’. The Republican message is that Americans shouldn’t worry about economic inequality; they should focus on economic opportunity.

In this presentation, Dr Babones will review the parties’ positions, assess them against the facts, and present his prognosis for the future of the US economy.

Traditionally when addressing such questions comparative politics scholars have focused on class, markets, and political parties. Following the work of Guillermo O’Donnell and others, we suggest that ideas of constitutionalism and the autonomy of law also play some significant role in fostering political stability and moderation.

Malcolm M. Feeley is the Claire Sanders Clements Dean’s Chair Professor of Law, and a senior member of the Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program at Boalt Hall Law School, University of California, Berkeley. Before joining the Boalt faculty in 1984, he was a fellow at Yale Law School and taught at New York University and the University of Wisconsin.

Professor Feeley has written or edited over a dozen books, and has authored several dozen articles in social science journals and law reviews. Among his books are Federalism: Political Identity and Tragic Compromise (with Edward Rubin, 2008), and Fighting for Political Liberalism: Comparative Studies of the Legal Complex (with Terrence Halliday and Lucien Karpik, 2008). His most recent articles examine issues of federalism, women and crime in the eighteenth century, prison privatisation, and the role of bench and bar in fostering political liberalism.

When: Tuesday 23 October 2012, 6pm
Where: G23, UNSW Law School, University of NSW

Inequality in America: The Economics of the 2012 Election
Dr. Salvatore Babones, University of Sydney

President Obama has expressed his fear that America was becoming ‘a country where a shrinking number of people do really well, while a growing number of Americans barely get by’. Given the numbers, he’s right to be afraid. Since 1973, US economic output has doubled in per-capita terms, yet wages have declined by 20% for the average 30-year-old. In contrast, high-income Americans have seen their incomes skyrocket and their taxes come down. Never in living memory has America been so unequal as it is today. Republicans criticise the President for trying to divide America into ‘haves and have-nots’, calling for policies to ‘restore an America of hope and upward mobility’. The Republican message is that Americans shouldn’t worry about economic inequality; they should focus on economic opportunity.

In this presentation, Dr Babones will review the parties’ positions, assess them against the facts, and present his prognosis for the future of the US economy.

Dr Babones is Senior Lecturer in Sociology & Social Policy at The University of Sydney, and an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC. He is the author or editor of four books, including Global Social Change: Historical and Comparative Perspectives (with Christopher Chase-Dunn, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006) and the Routledge Handbook of World-Systems Analysis (with Christopher Chase-Dunn, Routledge, 2012) as well as more than a dozen academic articles. His research focuses on income inequality, economic development, and statistical methods for comparative social science research.

When: Monday 29 October, 2pm
Where: Room 148 R.C Mills Building, Camperdown Campus, UNiversity of Sydney
Cost: FREE
**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