**Liquid Surveillance and the New Visibility**  
**Professor David Lyons, Queens University, Canada**

**Postgraduate Event Hosted by Sociology and Social Policy, University of Sydney**

Professor David Lyons is a preeminent scholar of modernity and surveillance and at the moment is working with Zygmunt Bauman. His most recent books are Identifying Citizens: ID Cards as Surveillance (Polity 2009), Playing the Identity Card (co-edited with Colin J. Bennett, Routledge, 2008) and Surveillance Studies: An Overview (Polity 2007).

Surveillance may be a central feature of the modern world, but more explanation is needed. Today’s type of modernity Zygmunt Bauman dubs “liquid” and this is worth exploring as an orientation to contemporary surveillance. The key here is the shift from fixity to fluidity. The panopticon was the model of fixity, claims Bauman. By contrast “societies of control” and the “surveillant assemblage” ooze fluidity. The architecture of walls and windows goes virtual. For Bauman it’s not just fluidity. The same forces split politics and power.

In surveillance this means that identifying power becomes harder as it escapes into extra-territoriality and confronting it in meaningful ways is at best a multi-level challenge. Not only this. The ethical impact of adiaphorization, in which technology operates beyond moral evaluation, is seen strongly in surveillance, perhaps quintessentially at border controls, where the person is always in tension with the data about her.

**When:** Monday 27th February, 10am - 2pm (Lunch will be provided)  
**Where:** Room 148 RC Mills Building  
**For Required Reading and RSVPs:** David Bray - david.bray@sydney.edu.au

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**An Anatomy of Writing and Politics, Memory and Democracy**  
**Javier Cercas**

**Co-Hosted by the Sydney Democracy Initiative, Sydney Ideas and the Instituto Cervantes**

**Javier Cercas** is Spain’s most celebrated contemporary writer. He was born in Ibahernando, in central Spain, in 1962. Fascinated from a young age by the works of Jorge Luis Borges and determined to become a writer, Cercas studied Spanish literature at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

His haunting novel Soldiers of Salamis (2004) became a great success. Digging into the painful history of Spain’s Civil War through the gripping, death-defying story of fascist soldier Sanchez Mazas, Cercas uses irony, paradox and self-references to involve his readers in the creation of the novel, in this way encouraging them to ponder for themselves questions about the vital importance in a democracy of coming to terms with the past and the difficulty of deciding what is true, what is false and what cannot be remembered.

Javier Cercas is in Australia as a guest of Adelaide Writers’ Week 2012. His books will be on sale at the venue and he will be available to sign copies after the presentation.

**When:** Wednesday 29th February 2012, 6:30pm  
**Where:** The Great Hall, Quadrangle, University of Sydney  
**Cost:** $20/$15; concession free for University of Sydney staff, students and Alumni (registration required)  
**Bookings and Registrations:** Seymour Centre box office, www.seymourcentre.com.au or phone 9351 7940.
Supporting the Reform Process in Burma
The Hon Kevin Rudd MP
Asialink Breakfast Briefing

Burma is entering a period of democratisation and major policy reform. Australia, Britain and the European Union have already revised their sanctions in response to these reforms.

The Hon Kevin Rudd MP made a high-level visit to Burma last year, followed recently by United States Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and British Foreign Secretary William Hague MP. Economically, significant hurdles remain but many changes are being made.

Recently, opponents of the former military regime have been allowed to contest national elections and hundreds of political prisoners have been released.

The Hon Kevin Rudd MP will address invited guests on Australia’s role in supporting this reform process.

When: Friday 2nd March, 7:45am for 8:00am start
Where: Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Level 61, Governor Phillip Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney
Cost: $45 - $55 (registration required)
More Information: Please email l.vandiemen@asialink.unimelb.edu.au for registration forms

The Culture of Surveillance: Who’s Watching Whom, Now?
Professor David Lyon, Queen’s University, Canada
Co-Hosted by the Surveillance and Everyday Life Research Group and Sydney Ideas

Today surveillance is central to social experience, both as a serious security issue and as a playful part of mediated relationships. In the late 20th century the language of “surveillance society” was popularized but now the outlines of “surveillance cultures” are emerging. The former term indicated a shift beyond state monitoring; surveillance was becoming a general societal experience. “Surveillance cultures” refers to various ways that surveillance becomes a way of life. Surveillance still happens in government, policing, intelligence and commerce but it is also hard-wired into streets and buildings, wirelessly present in smart phones and the internet. It has also been democratised for mass participation through social media.

Surveillance practices are understood through popular culture and are reproduced through surveillant imaginaries. This complicates our understanding of and our responses to surveillance. To understand this we have to consider three things: First, what brought us to today's situation? Second, what global trends inform surveillance change? Third, what local particularities shape our own experiences?

David Lyon is Director, Surveillance Studies Centre, Queen’s Research Chair in Surveillance Studies and Professor of Sociology and Law at Queen’s University, Canada. In 2007 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Sociological Association and in 2008 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

He has authored or edited 26 books and his work has been translated into 16 languages. The most recent sole-authored books are Identifying Citizens: ID Cards as Surveillance (2009) and Surveillance Studies: An Overview (2007) and the newest co-edited collections are Eyes Everywhere: The Global Growth of Camera Surveillance (2012), Handbook of Surveillance Studies (2012).

When: Thursday 1st March, 6pm
Where: Lecture Theatre 101, New Law School, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (no RSVP required)
An Encounter:  
Professor Thomas Pogge, Yale University  
Hosted by the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights

Tuesday 6th March 2012, 10am
Postgraduate Student Seminar  
Kevin Lee Room, Quadrangle, University of Sydney  
The Institute for Democracy and Human Rights will present a day-long seminar with Professor Thomas Pogge for postgraduate students working in the field of global justice/practical ethics/human rights. Selected students will present some of their work in progress; Professor Pogge and other academics will respond and contribute to discussions. The event also aims to provide a forum for students working in this field across Sydney to connect with each other and to build a postgraduate community.

Contact: Danielle Celermajer - danielle.celermajer@sydney.edu.au - to register an interest in attending the event

Wednesday 7th March 2012, 9am
Encounter Event with Professor Thomas Pogge  
The Cullen McCallum Rooms, Holme Building, University of Sydney  
The inaugural Institute for Democracy and Human Rights brings together scholars, students and members of the public to examine in detail the work of a leading contemporary thinker, in his or her presence. The one-day IDHR Encounter includes a workshop (by invitation only), followed by an evening public lecture.

This year’s Encounter presents Professor Thomas Pogge, Yale University. He is Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs at Yale, Professorial Fellow at the Australian National University, Research Director at the Oslo University Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature (CSMN) and a member of the Norwegian Academy of Science. Having received his PhD in philosophy from Harvard, Thomas Pogge has published widely on Kant and moral and political philosophy. His recent publications include Politics as Usual (2010); Kant, Rawls, and Global Justice

More Information: Zoe Morrison - sdi@sydney.edu.au or (02) 9351 3324

Wednesday 7th March 2012, 6pm
Public Lecture by Professor Thomas Pogge: What Do Human Rights Demand From You and Me?  
Co-Hosted with Sydney Ideas  
Many human beings do not have all their human rights fulfilled. A better world must surely be possible. But who has what obligations to help bring it about? What do we really owe distant strangers? And is this debt measured in resources we sacrifice or in gains thereby achieved for those in need? How are our obligations affected by the fact that so many in our situation don’t lift a finger? Is it possible to lead a moral life in our highly complex world? Political philosopher Thomas Pogge looks at the big questions that confront all of us concerned with human rights and global justice today.

When: Wednesday 7th March, 6pm  
Where: Lecture Theatre 104, New Law School Building, University of Sydney  
Cost: FREE (no RSVP required)  
More Information:  
Government and International Relations Colloquium Series
University of Sydney

The Department of Government and International Relations Colloquium Series aims to showcase recent research by members of the Department, visiting scholars and international and interstate guests in an informal setting, conducive to lively debate. It is an open event and everyone is welcome to attend.

Wednesday 7th March 2012

Contemporary Russian Migration: Trends, Challenges & Policy Options
Professor Sergei Ryazantsev, Russian Academy of Sciences

Co-Hosted by the Department of Sociology & Social Policy

Russia is actively involved in the process of international migration as an intermediary between the North and the South. It attracts migrants from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries and Asia, and is now one of the leading immigrant-receiving countries. Many immigrants consider Russian territory as a 'transit point' in their further migration to Western Europe. Emigration from Russia has also been considerable: since 1989, more than 1.2 million people have left Russia for permanent residence abroad. Russia has also become a major exporter of labour to foreign labour markets. Current estimates are that 25-30 million persons of Russian background live outside Russia. This means that the Russian-speaking diaspora is second in size only to the Chinese. On balance the country is faced overall with population decline, a decrease in the working-aged population, and an aging population. In this situation, Russian immigration policy is directed not at restricting entry, but at attracting the required categories of immigrants. This presentation will argue that Russian migration policy requires change in the following directions: providing for entry of foreign-based Russians; attracting skilled, educated migrants; inviting the necessary number of guest workers to meet the needs of the labour market; and stimulating migratory mobility among the Russian population.

When: 4-6pm
Where: Room 148, RC Mills Building, University of Sydney

Thursday 8th March 2012

Is There a Population Problem and If There Is, Can We Talk About It?
Professor Diana Coole, Birkbeck College, University of London

Professor Coole’s talk will outline her Leverhulme project: ‘Too Many Bodies? The Politics and Ethics of the World Population Question’. She will both explain the kind of questions raised by the project and examine why, since the mid-1970s, recommending population stabilization has been effectively precluded, in contrast to the preceding decade, when population had been part of a radical limits-to-growth agenda. In the paper she identifies five discourses of disavowal or dismissal: population-shaming, population-scepticism, population-declinism, population-decomposing and population-fatalism.

When: 3:30pm-5:30pm
Where: Darlington Centre Boardroom, University of Sydney

Thursday 22nd March 2012

Government Responses to Fiscal Austerity: The Effect of Institutional Fragmentation and Partisanship
Dr. Carsten Jensen, Aarhus University

How does the institutional context affect government responses to fiscal austerity? Despite the ‘institutional turn’ in political science, we still possess an incomplete understanding of the relationship between a core aspect of the institutional setting of countries – namely institutional fragmentation – and the policy consequences of fiscal pressure. This talk advances research on this question by integrating theories on the blame avoidance effect of institutional fragmentation with theories on the effect of party constituencies on social policies. The result is a set of novel hypotheses about the conditional effects of institutional fragmentation that are tested empirically using quantitative time series data on unemployment protection from 17 advanced democracies. The analysis show that institutional fragmentation is an important determinant of government responses to fiscal austerity, but the effect depends on the partisan composition of the government.

All Government and International Relations Colloquium Series Seminars take place in the Darlington Centre Boardroom at 3:30pm, unless stated otherwise

More information can be found at: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/government_international_relations/News_and_Events/colloquium.shtml
Following on from the highly successful **Insights 2011: Inaugural Lecture Series**, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney, is delighted to bring you the 2012 schedule. Alumni, colleagues and friends are invited to celebrate the first of four new professorial appointments.

**Politics in a Climate-Challenged Society**  
**Professor David Schlosberg, School of Social and Political Sciences**

From the threat of growing vulnerabilities to evolving forms of environmental governance, to the creation of new material relationships with the natural world, climate change offers a range of political challenges.

David Schlosberg is Professor of Government and International Relations in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Sydney. Professor Schlosberg is known nationally and internationally for his work in environmental political theory, environmental justice and environmental movements.

**When:** Thursday 8th March 2012, 6pm (refreshments served in the Nicholson Museum from 5:30pm)  
**Where:** General Lecture Theatre One, Quadrangle, University of Sydney  
**Reservations:** Essential, one week prior to each lecture. Register online at: sydney.edu.au/alumni/insights  
**Enquiries:** (02) 9351 7454

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**Democracy and Distribution**  
**Professor Ian Shapiro, Yale University**

Co-Hosted by the Sydney Democracy Initiative and the United States Studies Centre

An enduring puzzle of our time is that democratic political institutions often coexist with great - and even increasing - inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth. In the seminar, Ian Shapiro will discuss the limitations of existing explanations of this phenomenon and outline an alternative research agenda that builds on his recent work on the politics of taxation.

Ian Shapiro is Sterling Professor of Political Science at Yale University, where he also serves as Henry R. Luce Director of the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies. He has written widely and influentially on democracy, justice and the methods of social inquiry. His most recent books are The Real World of Democratic Theory; Containment: Rebuilding a Strategy against Global Terror; The Flight From Reality in the Human Sciences; and Death by a Thousand Cuts: The Fight Over Taxing Inherited Wealth (with Michael Graetz). His current research concerns the relations between democracy and the distribution of income and wealth.

**When:** Monday 12th March 2012, 3pm  
**Where:** US Studies Centre Boardroom, Institute Building, University of Sydney  
**Cost:** FREE  
**RSVP:** sdi@sydney.edu.au
When More is Less: The International Project in Afghanistan  
Dr Astri Suhrke, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen  
Hosted by The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

Dr Astri Suhrke will be talking about her new book, When More is Less: the international project in Afghanistan.

Western-led efforts to establish a post-Taliban order in Afghanistan are in serious jeopardy. Beginning with the dynamics of Western intervention and its parallel peacebuilding mission, Astri Suhrke examines the forces that have shaped this grand international project and the apparent systemic bias toward deeper and broader international involvement.

Suhrke's main argument is that the international project to reconstruct Afghanistan contains serious tensions and contradictions that have significantly impeded progress. As a result, deepening Western involvement in the region has been dysfunctional rather than helpful, and massive international support has created an extensively weak, corrupt and unaccountable state. U.S.-led military operations have only undermined the peacebuilding agenda, and increased international aid and monitoring have only led to Afghan resentment and evasion. Suhrke instead proposes a less intrusive international presence and encourages negotiations with militants to introduce a more Afghan-directed order.

Dr. Suhrke is a political scientist focusing on the social, political and humanitarian consequences of violent conflict, and strategies of response. More recently, Astri has focused on the politics of humanitarian policies in the UN system, concepts of human security and peacebuilding. She is also working on strategies of post-war reconstruction and state-building, with particular reference to Afghanistan.

She has led several research projects funded by the Research Council of Norway: The Multilateral Aid system (2001-03); Aid in Post-Conflict Situations (2003-05), and Violence in the Post-Conflict State (2005-08). Astri Suhrke has participated in projects commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, various UN agencies (particularly UNHCR), SIDA, DANIDA, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, DFID, the World Bank and UNDP. She is a member of a committee of experts serving the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

When: Tuesday 13th March 2012, 12:30pm  
Where: Senate Room, Lobby Q, Quadrangle, University of Sydney  
Cost: FREE (No RSVPs Required)  
Enquiries: Jake Lynch, Director, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies - jake.lynch@sydney.edu.au

China Studies Centre Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series Presents:  
Chinese Exceptionalism in the International Relations  
Feng Zhang, Politics and International Studies, Murdoch University  
Hosted by The China Studies Centre and Sydney Ideas

Although exceptionalism is an important dimension of China’s foreign policy, Dr Feng Zhang from Murdoch University argues, it has not been a subject of serious scholarly research. In this lecture, Dr Zhang attempts to examine the manifestations and sources of contemporary Chinese exceptionalism and explain its implications for foreign policy.

Chinese exceptionalism is defined by great power reformism, benevolent pacifism, and harmonious inclusionism. While resting on an important factual basis, it is constructed by mixing facts with myths through selective use of China’s vast historical and cultural experiences. Exceptionalism does not determine policy, but by being an essential part of the worldview of the Chinese government and many intellectuals, it can become an important source for policy ideas. It can be further seen as a normative theory for China’s foreign policy, as one among six major schools competing for ideological influence in China’s foreign policy formation.

Feng Zhang is a Lecturer in the Politics and International Studies program of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at Murdoch University. Feng works on China’s foreign relations and the international politics of East Asia, focusing on three related questions: historical East Asian politics and China’s central role in it, contemporary Chinese foreign policy especially with regard to policy ideas and grand strategy, and international relations theory from a Chinese perspective.

When: Wednesday 14th March 2012, 6pm  
Where: Lecture Theatre 104, New Law School Building, University of Sydney  
Cost: FREE (no RSVPs Required)  
So-called greenhouse gases in the atmosphere affect the climate on planet earth. Since industrialization, humankind has added to their concentration significantly, in particular through CO² emissions. Developed countries are responsible for more than three times as many emissions as developing countries. At the same time, people of the developing countries will suffer disproportionally more from climate change. Developing countries are more vulnerable to climate change due to geographical factors, a higher reliance on agriculture and lower adaptive capacities. How should the remaining permissible global emissions be distributed among the currently living people? There are many objections against counterbalancing past emissions. The main objections include: “Why should I be responsible for the sins of my ancestors?”; “We didn’t know about the greenhouse effect.”; and the claim that even if a climate change policy had been instigated in the past, would we actually be any better off?

In his seminar, Professor Meyer will explore the possibility that there are ways of taking into account past emissions that are not susceptible to common objections.

When: 16th March 2012, 3pm
Where: Western Tower Room, Quadrangle, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE
RSVP: sdi@sydney.edu.au

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**Everything Political** is an events newsletter designed to publicise details of all forthcoming research and public events in the field of politics, very broadly defined. The newsletters 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