

# Monash Asia Institute Bulletin (10/2009)

6 November 2009

## Contents

1. New contact details for Monash Asia Institute at Caulfield campus
2. Public Lecture by distinguished Indian Historian, Prof Robert Frykenberg
3. Public forum: Healing, Truth and Justice in Canada
4. Public forum: Sri Lanka: Human Rights Issues and Media Representation
5. Seminar: Buddhism and Christianity as Indigenous Religion
6. Workshop: EU-ASEAN Relations in the 21st Century: Towards a 'Strategic Partnership'?
7. Public Lecture by Anwar Ibrahim
8. MAI PhD Confirmation Seminar: The new merchants of Prato
9. Scholarships: NOHA Joint Master's Programme in International Humanitarian Action
10. Engaging with Vietnam: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue
11. Interreligious Relations in the 21st Century: A Post-Parliament Reflection
12. Conference: Asia Pacific Breakthrough
13. Website of the month: Devi, the Great Goddess

## Monash Asia Institute and Monash News

### Item 1. Monash Asia Institute's new home

The Monash Asia Institute has now moved to Caulfield campus. You will be able to find us at:

5th Floor, H Building  
Monash University  
900 Dandenong Road  
Caulfield East, Victoria 3145, Australia

Our postal address and contact details are:

Monash Asia Institute  
P.O. Box 197  
Caulfield East, Victoria 3145, Australia

email: [mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au)

Tel: +61 3 9903 5043

Fax: +61 3 9905 5370

## Item 2. Seminar

### **Distinguished Indian Historian speaks at Public Lecture in Melbourne**

Monday 9 November 2009, 12:00 noon  
Building H - Theatre HB32  
Monash University, Caulfield campus  
900 Dandenong Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3145

#### **Political Religion in India: Hindu Raj? Hinduism? or Hindutva?**

Professor Robert Eric Frykenberg  
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Between the logic of an integrating constitutional pluralism and the more fissiparous logic of a sacralising, if not totalising, kind of "civic" religion operating within both parliamentary and extra-parliamentary processes, the political structures of India as a secular state have suffered dangerous stresses, and have survived - so far.

This paper will address these stresses and tensions, between what Romila & Romesh Thapar called "Syndicated" Hinduism as a modern construction (or invented tradition), linked to the secular pluralism required for political stability, and Hindutva and the Sangh Parivar's agenda of militant nationalism.

Details: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/news-and-events/seminars/index.php#political>

Enquiries: [MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au) with 'Political Religion in India' in the subject heading of the email.

## Item 3. Lecture and Discussion

Tuesday 10 November, 2009, 2–3.30 pm  
Lecture theatre H1, Building 11  
Monash University, Clayton

#### **Healing, Truth and Justice in Canada**

Dr Mike DeGagné, Executive Director, Aboriginal Healing Foundation, Canada,

Mike DeGagné is the founding Executive Director of Canada's Aboriginal Healing Foundation, which is governed by a board of leaders from the First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities.

The independent foundation is responsible for distributing a \$515 million fund set up by the Canadian Government in 1998 to compensate Indigenous Canadians for experiences eerily similar to those of Australia's Stolen Generations.

The foundation's mission is to address the legacy of physical, sexual, mental, cultural and spiritual abuses arising from Canada's Aboriginal residential school system.

Mike received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto, Masters Degrees in Health Administration and in Law, and a PhD focussing on Aboriginal postsecondary education. Prior to joining the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, Mike held positions with the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Health Canada, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, in management and negotiations. Mike lectures frequently on Aboriginal health, residential schools, reconciliation and governance. He serves on a number of boards including Algoma University, is the Vice-President of the Child Welfare League of Canada, and past Chairman of the Queensway Carleton Hospital.

Professor Lenore Manderson will join Mike to comment on memorialisation and the historical record in Australia and South Africa.

Register: Email: [mnhs.rsvp@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:mnhs.rsvp@med.monash.edu.au)

#### **Item 4. Seminar**

Tuesday 10 November 2009, 6.00 – 8.00 pm  
Lecture Theatre K321, Monash University, Caulfield

#### **Sri Lanka: Human Rights Issues and Media Representation**

As boatloads of asylum seekers put their lives at risk trying to find refuge, attention is shifting to the conditions that are forcing so many people from their homes. The war in Sri Lanka has finished, but the persecution of its Tamil minority has not.

Hundreds of thousands of Tamils continue to be kept in detention centres in sub-human conditions, there are reliable reports of regular extra-judicial killings and other gross human rights abuses, and the media and aid organizations have been barred access to the centres. Freedom of speech has all but ended in Sri Lanka, with journalists being murdered, jailed or fleeing for their lives. The conditions that led to Sri Lanka's recently ended civil war continue to be compounded, leaving many to believe that, without a sustainable political solution, it will again flare up.

The seminar 'Sri Lanka: Human Rights Issues and Media Representation' will consider these issues, addressing what led to the current situation, how we understand it, where it stands, and what might be done about it.

Chair: Professor Chris Nash, Journalism, Monash University

Speakers: Associate Professor Jake Lynch, Director, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, will discuss the media situation in relation to Sri Lanka, and the responses of the Australian government.

David Feith, who has observed, researched and written about Sri Lanka since 1983 will provide historical background to the current situation, looking at the factors that led to systematic discrimination against Tamils since independence in 1948.

Associate Professor Rohan Bastin, Deakin University, will examine the contemporary situation, and discuss the decades-long conflict, including the suppression of the JVP insurgencies, and why the conflict in Sri Lanka should be seen as a civil war not an ethnic conflict; he will also critically discuss how the conflict has been represented in the media.

Associate Professor Damien Kingsbury, Deakin University, will examine human rights issues and the Responsibility to Protect. He will consider how to invoke the principle of the Responsibility to Protect in practice. He will also discuss more broadly the role of the international community in relation to Sri Lanka, and how the situation there might develop in future.

David Manne, Co-ordinator, Principal Solicitor and Migration Agent, Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre, will discuss the issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers from Sri Lanka, and Australian government responses to the Sri Lankan Tamil asylum seekers.

This seminar is presented by Amnesty International, The Victorian Trades Hall Council, The Herb Feith Foundation (Monash University), The Alfred Deakin Research Institute (Deakin University), The Human Rights Law Resource Centre (Melbourne); and The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (Sydney University).

Enquiries: [David.Feith@college.monash.edu.au](mailto:David.Feith@college.monash.edu.au)

## **Item 5. Seminar**

Wednesday 11 November 2009, 2:00 - 4:00pm  
Building H - Room H5.95  
Monash University, Caulfield campus  
900 Dandenong Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3145

The Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology, the Monash Asia Institute and the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations, Monash University invite you to

### **Buddhism and Christianity as Indigenous Religion**

John D'Arcy May, Associate Professor of Interfaith Dialogue, Irish School of Ecumenics, Dublin

It is often overlooked that 'universal' or 'high' traditions such as Buddhism and Christianity themselves began as 'indigenous' traditions in very particular cultures and societies, which they then transcended as they engaged with

cultures very different from those of their contexts of origin. It has been suggested that there are more commonalities between the Buddhist story and the Dreaming stories of Aboriginal Australia than initially meet the eye, and there is much to be learnt – both negatively and positively – from Buddhism’s extraordinary adaptability to its host cultures through the centuries. Christianity, too, has developed its own techniques for adaptation to cultures that are foreign to it, though its missionary history shows that it has also transformed cultures in its own image. In addition, both Buddhist and Christian traditions are increasingly confronted by a secularity whose exclusive humanism seems to portray them both as optional life choices rather than compelling truths.

This poses a challenge to emerging Christology and Buddhology in Australian and Asia-Pacific contexts. Are they capable of recovering the intense relationship to earth and cosmos, land and place that marked their origins without losing their absolute transcendence of an impermanent phenomenal world? Can traditions such as Australian Aboriginal religion help to ‘earth’ them, thus enhancing their contribution to ecological ethics, environmental sustainability and socio-economic justice? Is a fundamental re-interpretation of central teachings such as creation and incarnation, emptiness and interconnectedness feasible? What effects would such a re-interpretation have on ethics in a ‘time of many worlds’, of religious pluralism in the multi-cultural public sphere of an emerging global civil society? These are some of the questions to be addressed.

For John D'Arcy May's bio, presentation abstract and to register for this event, please visit:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/psi/johndarcymay/index.php>

Enquiries: [UNESCOChair@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:UNESCOChair@arts.monash.edu.au)

## **Item 6. International Workshop**

Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November 2009  
Monash University – Caulfield Campus  
900 Dandenong Rd, Caulfield East, Melbourne, Australia

Registration is now open for the International Workshop:

### **EU-ASEAN Relations in the 21st Century: Towards a ‘Strategic Partnership’?**

organized by the Monash European and EU Centre and the Monash Asia Institute.

Keynote speakers

- Professor Martin Holland (Director, National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury)

- Dr Yeo Lay Hwee (Director, European Union Centre, NUS, Singapore)
- Professor Joergen Oerstroem Moeller (Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISEAS, Singapore, Member of the Board of Governors ASEF)
- Ambassador David Daly (Head of Delegation, Ambassador of the European Commission Delegation to Australia, Canberra) and/or Ms Lynne Hunter (Adviser, Bilateral Relations, to the Ambassador).

The major themes to be addressed are:

1. Bridging the Perception Gap
2. EU-ASEAN: In Search of Common Values
3. ASEAN in the EU's Asia Policy
4. Commonalities and Differences in Security Perspectives

#### Scientific Committee

Professor Marika Vicziany (Director, Monash Asia Institute, Melbourne)  
 Professor Pascaline Winand (Director, Monash European and EU Centre, Melbourne)  
 Professor Douglas Webber (INSEAD, France)  
 Dr. Daniel Novotny (Endeavour Research Fellow, Monash European and EU Centre)

For further information, please contact:

**Dr. Daniel Novotny**, *Event Convenor*  
 Email: [Daniel.Novotny@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Daniel.Novotny@arts.monash.edu.au)  
 Phone: +61 3 9903 4638 or +61 423048786

Registration:

**Ms Patricia Arnold**, *Administrative Officer*  
 Telephone: + 61 3 9903 4638  
 Fax: +61 3 9903 4686  
 Email: [Patricia.Arnold@general.monash.edu.au](mailto:Patricia.Arnold@general.monash.edu.au)

#### **Item 7. Public Lecture by Anwar Ibrahim**

Saturday 5 December 2009, 6.00 pm  
 Melbourne venue

#### **Public Lecture by Anwar Ibrahim**

Topic and Abstract will be made available soon.

Enquiries: [mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au)

#### **Item 8. MAI PhD confirmation**

Tuesday 8 December 2009, 10.00 am  
Room H5.95, Monash Asia Institute  
Level 5, H Building, Monash University Caulfield campus

**The new merchants of Prato: The rapid growth of Chinese entrepreneurship in Prato, Italy**

Ms Anja Fladrich, PhD candidate, Monash Asia Institute

Since the new millennium and as a corollary of China's stronger global integration, an increasing number of Chinese enterprises have been set up in Europe. Amongst these enterprises are Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and multinational companies (MNCs) that have been supported by the Chinese government and its "Going Out"-Strategy zouchuqu. Attracting less attention and thus less understood, however, are Chinese microenterprises and small-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have been set up by new Chinese migrants (xin yimin), many of who have especially migrated to Italy.

The Tuscan city of Prato constitutes one of the most concentrated Chinese communities in Europe, where more than 3,500 Chinese enterprises are evidence of Chinese migrants' entrepreneurial aptitude and pursuit of setting up their own business. Drawing upon Schumpeterian entrepreneurship and the concept of personal networks (guanxi), the author argues that the rapid growth of Chinese enterprises in Prato is fuelled by dormant entrepreneurship of Chinese migrants following a 'charted path' of employment in the firm of another Chinese, where they accumulate knowledge and equity.

Enquiries: [mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au)

**Item 9. Erasmus Mundus scholarships**

Call for applications for **Erasmus Mundus scholarships for the NOHA Joint Master's Programme in International Humanitarian Action** from

- Third Country Scholars
- Monash University Honours and Postgraduate students

**Third Country Scholars**

Nationals of countries other than the 27 EU Member States, the EEA-EFTA states or those countries waiting for accession to the EU, are eligible to apply for an Erasmus Mundus as a Third Country scholar.

A new online application system with facility to attach scanned documents is now available. Details of the Masters programme admission/selection criteria and the NOHA Mundus Scholarship Scheme are available at:

<http://www.nohanet.org/>

Deadline for application for 2010-2011: **15 December 2009**

### **Monash Asia Institute EU-NOHA nomination**

Through Monash Asia Institute's co-operation with NOHA, Monash University has been invited to nominate one Monash honours or postgraduate student to participate in the Erasmus Mundus NOHA Joint Master's Programme in International Humanitarian Action each year. Monash honours and postgraduate students who would be interested in taking up this opportunity should send their applications together with their curriculum vitae by **Friday 27 November 2009** pm to

Professor A M Vicziany c/- Ms Juliet Yee  
Monash Asia Institute  
P.O. Box 197  
Caulfield East, Victoria 3145, Australia

email: [mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:mai.enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au)

Details : <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/mai/pgrad/maha.php>

### **Item 10. Monash Conference**

Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 February 2010  
Monash University Conference Centre, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne

#### **Engaging with Vietnam: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue**

Sponsored by: The "Globalisation, Education and Social Inclusion" and the "Language, Literacy and Social Inclusion" Research Groups, Faculty of Education, Monash University

This conference will feature Vietnam-related research work by Vietnamese and international researchers and research students in Australian universities. It aims to cover a wide variety of disciplines, ranging from education to geography, and from anthropology to business and economics. Led by the research group "Globalisation, Education and Social Inclusion", Faculty of Education, Monash University, the conference wishes to explore how knowledge about Vietnam has been constructed and reconstructed in the context of globalisation, mobility and transnationality, and how processes of knowledge mobilisation take place at the local, regional, global and glonocal levels. It also wishes to listen to the participants' perspectives regarding the issues of 'brain drain and brain exchange', and how contributions can be made to Vietnam through research work.

Suggestions from researcher presenters and participants on how to build and sustain effective collaboration among researchers working on Vietnam-related issues will be sought as well.

You are invited to submit an abstract of 200 to 300 words describing your research and how it contributes to constructing knowledge about Vietnam in the context of globalisation, mobility and transnationality, and addressing your perspectives regarding the issue of 'brain drain and brain exchange' and how your research work can help with this issue.

Phan Le Ha (PhD)  
Faculty of Education  
Conference Convenor  
Email: [ha.phan@education.monash.edu.au](mailto:ha.phan@education.monash.edu.au)

### **Item 11. Parliament of the world's religions**

Saturday 10 December 2009, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Building H, Room H1.16  
Monash University, Caulfield Campus

#### **Interreligious Relations in the 21st Century: A Post-Parliament Reflection**

This symposium is hosted by the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations, in partnership with the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies, the Centre for Islam and the Modern World, the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization, the Centre for Studies in Religion & Theology and the Monash Asia Institute, Monash University.

It will provide an opportunity for leading scholars in interreligious relations fresh from the Parliament to reflect on its main themes and to identify emerging issues pertaining to interreligious relations and research.

#### **Symposium Overview**

The morning session will include five brief keynote presentations - one on each of the symposium's key themes - followed by a plenary discussion.

The symposium's themes are:

- Theories and Theologies of Interreligious Relations - Professor Paul Knitter
- Social Inclusion and Countering Radicalisation – Professor Gary Bouma
- Reconciliation - speaker TBC
- Religion and Ecology - speaker TBC
- Family, Gender and Sexuality - Rachel Woodlock

After lunch we will divide into workshops on each theme where participants will be invited to reflect on the treatment of the particular stream within the Parliament and to discuss emerging issues and how they relate to their

current research. This will provide fertile ground for future collaborative research among participants.

The one day symposium will conclude at 5pm in a plenary session with short reports and discussions from the various working groups.

We will invite participants to contribute chapters for an edited manuscript following the symposium.

#### Registration

Registration for the symposium is \$AUD50 (full) and \$AUD30 (PhD students).

We will provide all international and interstate visitors with return train tickets to Monash Caulfield from the Melbourne CBD

Enquiries: [UNESCOinterreligious@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:UNESCOinterreligious@arts.monash.edu.au)

#### Symposium Chair

Professor Emeritus Gary D Bouma FAICD  
Chair, World Parliament of Religions, Melbourne  
UNESCO Chair in Interfaith and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific, Monash University

#### Symposium Coordinators

Melanie Landau - Lecturer, Australian Centre of Jewish Civilisation, Monash University  
Anna Halafoff - Researcher, UNESCO Chair in Interreligious Relations, Monash University

### **News from other institutions**

#### **Item 12. Asia Pacific Breakthrough**

Wednesday 2 December and Thursday 3 December 2009  
Venue: Melbourne, Australia

#### **Asia Pacific Breakthrough: The Women, Faith and Development Summit to End Global Poverty**

Asia Pacific Breakthrough is a call to action for women living in poverty.

You are especially invited to attend this global Summit, which will be held in Melbourne on December 2nd and 3rd, on the eve of the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Targets for reaching Millennium Development Goals 3 and 5, women's equality and maternal health, are significantly off track in Asia Pacific.

Breakthrough aims to build a new movement across all levels of community – from the grassroots to leadership – to reinvigorate collective energy to reach the MDGs.

Faith communities, development actors and women's groups are critical to reaching these goals. We hope you can contribute to this international dialogue by joining us at the Asia Pacific Breakthrough Summit and being part of the new Women, Faith and Development Alliance.

Breakthrough aims to:

- Announce new commitments and investments for women and girls
- Highlight the priorities needed to reach the MDGs
- Convene an Asia Pacific Women, Faith and Development Alliance.

More than 20 national and international leaders will speak and participate in this Summit, including:

- Sister Joan Chittister OSB of the Global Peace Initiative of Women, New York
- Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary, World YWCA
- Dr Musdah Mulia, Chairperson of Indonesian Conference on Religion and Peace (ICRP)
- Jackie Ogega, Director, Religions for Peace, New York
- Hon Dame Carol Kidu, CBE, MP, Minister for Community Development and Religion and Sports, Papua New Guinea
- Hon Mr Bob McMullan MP, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance
- Jane Sloane, Executive Director, International Women's Development Agency
- Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Coordinator, femLINKPACIFIC, Fiji
- Dina Lumbantobing, Women's Crisis Center, PESADA, Indonesia
- Rev Tim Costello, Executive Director, World Vision
- Dr Julia Newton-Howes, Chief Executive Officer, Care Australia
- Andrew Hewett, Executive Director, Oxfam.

Asia Pacific Breakthrough is an initiative spearheaded in the Asia-Pacific region by IWDA, in collaboration with key faith, women's and development organisations including Care Australia, PLAN Australia, Salvation Army, UNIFEM, World Vision Australia, Global Peace Initiative of Women, United Nations Association of Australia, Oxfam and the World YWCA. Supporting partners include AusAID, the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet, and Melbourne City Council.

Details: [www.breakthrough2009.com.au](http://www.breakthrough2009.com.au)

REGISTER NOW, Space is limited

COST:

Full Summit, 2nd – 3rd December 2009: \$400 Day 1 Only, 2nd December 2009: \$250

ENQUIRIES: Asia Pacific Breakthrough Secretariat, Tel: + 61 (0) 2 9999 5882,  
Email: [suebarros@breakthrough2009.com.au](mailto:suebarros@breakthrough2009.com.au)

### **Item 13. Website of the month: Devi, the Great Goddess**

<http://www.asia.si.edu/devi/>

This website looks at the six aspects of the Indian goddess Devi. The site offers additional information on the contemporary and historical worship of Devi, activities for children and families, and a list of resources on South Asian arts and cultures.

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### **About the MAI Bulletin**

The Monash Asia Institute Newsletter incorporates news items from the research centres of the Monash Asia Institute, partner organisations and other groups working to promote Asian Studies in Australia.

For further information about the Monash Asia Institute and this newsletter:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/mai/>

To unsubscribe, please send an email to: Monash-Asia-Institute Enquiries

[MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au)