



Centre **for** Dialogue  
— A Centre of La Trobe University —

# ANNUAL REPORT 2011

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Centre *for* Dialogue



**Centre for Dialogue**

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The Centre for Dialogue views the diversity of cultures, religions and civilisations as one of the most valuable and enriching characteristics of human evolution – a phenomenon that merits sustained scholarly analysis and has enormous pedagogical potential at all levels of education and training.

The Centre was established by La Trobe University's Academic Board in September 2005. It has a strong cross-faculty profile and inter-disciplinary methodology.

Its overarching mission is to examine the scope and limitations of the theory and method of dialogue as a response to the tensions that periodically characterise relations between different communities, cultures, ideologies, nations, and civilisations. While pursuing both pure and applied research, the Centre is concerned to maximise the social impact of its research in education-centred training programs, policy development, and inter-cultural dialogues.

Dialogue, understood as a 'journey of discovery' in the encounter between 'self' and the 'other', has historically proved to be a constructive response to diversity and difference. The Centre is therefore committed to developing the philosophy, method and practice of dialogue, and to examine its implications for the study of governance, markets and civil society.

In line with its Constitution, the Centre's three main aims are:

1. To achieve the highest international standards in research that addresses the challenges and opportunities for dialogue and establish a productive network of national and international

research partnerships;

2. To build on La Trobe's strengths and research expertise, especially in the inter-disciplinary study of politics, international relations, international law, religion, culture and civilisation, media, public health, education, as well as development and conflict resolution (including human rights); and,
3. To maintain international best practice in terms of combining effective research, education, policy development and community engagement.

Over the next five years, the Centre will continue to develop cutting edge research projects, maintain a solid range of publications, and build strong research partnerships with leading international institutions. It will seek to develop collaborative projects with international agencies and governments that have a strong commitment to the dialogue of cultures, faiths and civilisations; mount consultations, briefings, courses and other services responding to the needs of educational institutions, religious and community organisations, media, the professions, industry, philanthropy and government organisations; and develop a Resource Centre, which can service academic research, community-based projects, and interested members of the public.

2011 has been an important and eventful year for the Centre for Dialogue. It was the second year in a three-year period of expansion. The focus was on developing the Centre's research profile, mentoring and encouraging early career researchers, strengthening national and international collaboration, and securing the Centre's funding position.



The seven key themes underlying the majority of the research and educational activities of the Centre during the year were:

- Dialogue of cultures and civilisations: theoretical and historical perspectives;

- Managing religious and cultural diversity in Southeast Asia;
- Conflict and dialogue in the Middle East;
- Cyprus: realities of conflict and prospects for dialogue;
- The United Nations *Alliance of Civilizations* initiative;
- Reconciling divided communities in Australia; and
- Interfaith and intercultural dialogue in local and regional settings.

The following highlights for 2011 are worth noting:

Three books were published by Palgrave Macmillan as edited volumes. In each case the volumes were edited by staff of the Centre for Dialogue (Anceschi, Camilleri and Isakhan) and colleagues closely associated with the Centre. The editors also contributed one or more chapters to their respective books (for details see page 16).

A contract has also been signed with Routledge for an edited book *Culture, Religion and Conflict in Muslim Southeast Asia: Negotiating Tense Pluralisms* to be published in 2012. The book, to be edited by Camilleri and Schottnann (who also contribute chapters to the book) arises from an ARC Discovery Project.

The Northern Interfaith and Intercultural Network (which takes in five municipalities in the northern region of Melbourne) was formally established in March 2011. This initiative was the direct result of a four-year ARC Linkage Project led by the Centre for Dialogue research team.

Considerable progress was made in researching and preparing the ground for five major international dialogues. The second Australia-Malaysia dialogue was held at La Trobe University in December 2011 (a book proposal will shortly be submitted to Routledge). The first Australia-Indonesia Dialogue is to be held in Bogor in June 2012. Agreements for two new dialogues (with leading partner institutions in China and Turkey respectively) will be signed shortly. Discussions are under way with the American University in Cairo for an Australia-Egypt Dialogue.

The journal *Global Change, Peace & Security* made considerable strides in its international profile and circulation.

The Young Muslim Leadership Program, funded by the Victorian Government, entered its fifth year.

With continued funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade the program was able to include the participation of eight young Muslims from Southeast Asia. Funding from the Attorney-General's Department enabled for the first time the participation of six young Muslims from Sydney.

In August, the Centre in collaboration with the School of Social Sciences hosted Prof Michael Cox, Co-Director of LSE IDEAS and Professor of International Relations at LSE. Prof Cox delivered the Centre's 2011 Annual Lecture at St Michael's Church on Collins Street to an audience of over 500. The Centre wishes to acknowledge the warm hospitality extended by Dr Francis Macnab, Executive Minister of St Michael's and founding Executive Director of the Cairnmillar Institute. Further collaboration is envisaged in the coming year.

Other important landmarks included: the stimulating presence of several visiting fellows, including Prof Liou To-hai (National Chengchi University, Taipei) and Dr Michael Seigel (Nanzan University, Nagoya); the hosting of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia chaired by Ms Maria Vamvakinou; the international symposium on the peace process in the Middle East held at La Trobe in June 2011; and the very effective seminar series.

Having completed its first five years, the Centre was externally reviewed in February 2011. Recommendations arising from the Review were considered and approved by Academic Board in September 2011, and more detailed recommendations were considered and approved by the University's Planning and Resources Committee in November 2011.

While the review process itself and the detailed consideration of its findings and recommendations have necessarily required of all parties concerned a great deal of time and attention, the decisions reached will stand the Centre in good stead over the next several years. The main outcomes include:

- A revised constitution more closely in line

with the University's guidelines for centres and institutes, and a clearer set of objectives, priorities and institutional arrangements;

- A comprehensive list of key performance indicators that will more effectively and transparently gauge the extent to which key objectives and priorities are being met; and
- A clearer statement of the support which the University is committed to providing the Centre over the next three years and beyond.

The Centre wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the Chair (Prof Gavin Jack) and other members of the Review Panel for their report. Special thanks go to Prof Tim Brown, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) for his invaluable assistance in leading the consideration of the report by the University's Research and Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Board and the Planning and Resources Committee.

Here I must make mention of the indispensable support provided by the University as a whole, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the School of Social Sciences. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by Prof John Rosenberg, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof Tim Murray, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof Judith Brett, Head of the School of Social Sciences, and Prof Dennis Altman, director of the Institute for Human Security. Finally, may I extend a special word of thanks to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Paul Johnson who has taken a strong interest in the development of the Centre throughout his time at La Trobe. The Centre extends to him its very best wishes in his new position as Vice-Chancellor at the University of Western Australia.

The Centre's success is in large part attributable to the skills, effort and dedication of its staff. I am deeply indebted to: the Centre's deputy director, Dr Michális Michael for his crucial and multi-skilled contribution to the life of the Centre: Larry Marshall for the energy and flair with which

he has approached a number of educational and community engagement projects; three new staff members: Dr Sven Schottman (who has brought enthusiasm and expertise to several projects), Dr David Tittensor (who was recently awarded his PhD at Monash), and Monika Winarnita (who is completing a PhD at the ANU); Aran Martin for his help in preparing the ground for the Australia-China High-Level Talks; and to Tracy Lee, Christine Siokou and Shelley Baulch for their wonderful contribution to the efficient organisation of the Centre. A special word of appreciation goes to Dr Stephen James for his expert and dedicated editorship of our Journal *Global Change, Peace & Security*, ably assisted by Hamish Myers.

The members of the Advisory Board, and especially its Chairman, the Hon Steve Bracks, have continued to play an invaluable role, providing the Centre with advice, contacts and support throughout the year, for which we are deeply grateful.

The Centre wishes to acknowledge the continuing support of the Victorian Government, in particular the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship (OMAC), the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, the William Buckland Foundation and the Myer Foundation.



Joseph A. Camilleri  
Director, Centre for Dialogue  
Professor of International Relations

## NEW IN 2011

### Capacity Building for Reconciling Divided Communities in Victoria

(2011 - 2014)

This three-year project builds upon a previously funded project around the exploration and use of dialogue as a tool for conflict resolution. Its aim is to research relations between communities whose homelands are in conflict, and to explore ways in which they might be able to reassess their understanding of the situations about which they feel so strongly, and their perceptions of and attitudes to the 'opposing' side.

The underlying aim of the project is to assist these communities and their members, including those in leadership positions, to:

- identify areas of mistrust or misunderstanding;
- create opportunities for co-operation and joint activities;
- explore solutions that address the needs of all parties; and,
- develop dialogue and conflict resolution skills, and attitudes and relationships likely to enrich Australian multiculturalism and promote greater social cohesion.

The project has two main components. The first part of the project will enable the Centre to take forward the work of the previous two years with the Sri Lankan and Middle Eastern communities in Victoria. The Centre proposes to play a mentoring role, and to reflect on that experience as a way of further contributing to the theory and practice of dialogue.

In the second component, the Centre will research, design and deliver a series of training programs tailored to the needs of different groups (representatives from divided communities, and governmental and non-governmental sectors involved in different ways with ethnic communities, and members of the public who wish to develop and apply their mediation, dialogue and conflict resolution skills). These training programs will be based on careful research of the background of the participating communities, their level of knowledge and experience, and in particular the contexts in which they are likely to apply the insights, skills and competencies acquired through these programs. In addition to designing and delivering these programs, the Centre will produce a range of carefully researched printed and multi-media materials. Again it is proposed that the program will be carefully monitored, and will lead to a number of research publications on both the theory and practice of dialogue.

The anticipated outcomes of this project are:

- Four peer reviewed papers;
- A detailed report to be widely distributed to relevant communities, policy-makers, educators and media;
- An extensive database to be used in a variety of ways, including continued skilling of key stakeholders in Victoria with an interest in inter-ethnic/inter-cultural dialogue and engagement;
- Greater community understanding of the philosophy and practice of dialogue; and,
- Sustained, creative relationships between Victoria's divided communities.



An Advisory Group, consisting of experts in ethnic-community relations and conflict resolution, as well as representatives of key service providers, and community, educational and media organisations, has been convened to regularly provide input on a range of aspects. The inaugural meeting of the Group was held in November 2011.

The Centre wishes to acknowledge the generous contribution of the William Buckland Foundation, Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, VicHealth and Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

For related projects see also *Egyptian Communities Dialogue* on page 8.

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## Alliance of Civilisations (2011 - 2012)

The Centre successfully applied for a grant with the Australian National Commission for UNESCO to conduct a regional consultation/dialogue that would bring together key stakeholders within the Asia-Pacific region. Although not an official inter-governmental conference, participants could fruitfully include members of parliament and government officials from key ministries, as well as scholars and experts in various fields, including industry, philanthropy, media, education and religious and cultural organisations.



The *Alliance of Civilizations (AoC)* was established in 2005, at the initiative of the Governments of Spain and Turkey, under the auspices of the United Nations.

This project is being undertaken in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific (UCIIR-AP).

Over the last several months, the Centre has been in discussion with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the UN Secretariat for the Alliance of Civilizations with a view to determining an appropriate date and host country for staging the consultation.

At the invitation of the Qatar Government, the Director of the Centre participated in the 4th UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Doha on 11-13 December 2011.

*The Hon  
Kevin Rudd,  
Australian  
Foreign  
Minister, with  
colleagues  
and friends in  
Qatar*

## The M Project (2011 - 2015)

The M Project is a new initiative currently spearheaded by the Centre under the leadership of Prof Camilleri and Dr Sven Schottmann. It is a forum for the imaginative and creative intellectual exchange between postgraduate students and early career researchers of Muslim background and identity, with associates from across the Asia-Pacific region.

The M Project provides a platform for individuals to participate, as *Muslims motivated by their faith*, in global debates on the truly big questions of our times. Through regular conferences, collaborative research/writing projects, seminar series and reading groups, The M Project provides the intellectual space and networking opportunities for emerging voices to articulate Muslim responses to some of the most significant challenges facing humanity as a whole. The M Project is currently pursuing two major activities.

The first is a multi-dimensional dialogue to be held in Kuala Lumpur in mid-2012 to bring together young academics and community leaders from across Southeast Asia to explore social and political implications of the apparent retreat of secularism across the region.

The second is the publication of an edited volume titled *Tales of two cities: Being Australian and Muslim in Melbourne and Sydney*. The book, comprising twelve short essays by architects, artists, entrepreneurs, activists, Sufi practitioners and other everyday Muslims, explores life in multicultural Australia from unexpected angles.

The M Project is supported by grants received from the Victorian Government Department of Premier and Cabinet, the federal Attorney-General's Department and the Myer Foundation.

## Egyptian Communities Dialogue (2011 - 2012)

Recent tensions in Egypt have deeply affected the Coptic and Muslim Egyptian communities in Australia. As most retain strong emotional ties with their original homeland, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), in consultation with the Centre thought it critically important that these communities have an opportunity to reflect on the situation in Egypt and to foster the conditions for trust, mutual respect, dialogue and co-operation.

As part of its *Capacity Building for Reconciling Divided Communities in Victoria* project (see previous page) and its Dialogue Diaspora program, the Centre mounted in October 2011 the 'Egyptian Communities Dialogue' which specifically seeks to bring together, in a series of consultations and dialogues, members of the Coptic and Muslim Egyptian communities resident in Victoria, with a view to involving them in constructive and respectful dialogue.

The project consists of three community consultations (two separate and one joint) to be followed by three inter-communal dialogues in Melbourne, scheduled for 2012.

The Egyptian Coptic Community Consultation, hosted by Bishop Anbal Suriel, was held on 10 December at the Coptic Orthodox Church Diocese of Melbourne in Donvale, having been preceded by a preliminary consultation with the Egyptian Elsedeaq Islamic Society on 21 October.

It is anticipated that two refereed journal articles, a detailed report to be used by the relevant stakeholders (communities, policy-makers, service providers, media and educators), and an extensive database to be utilised in various ways by other researchers, will be the main research outcomes.

The project is supported and co-funded by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

## Working Diversity

(2011 - 2012)

This project, jointly conducted with the City of Darebin, aims to develop diversity as *Cultural Capital*. The objective is to create and sustain organisational vitality where people of diverse backgrounds can cooperate in productive harmony.

Globalisation and the speed of connectivity have expanded interactions and mutual dependence between diverse cultures and economies. The advent of new technologies presents both challenges and opportunities to the way that we seek to develop personal, cultural, political and economic exchanges and cooperation amongst people of diverse cultures, ethnicity, language, religion and race.

These linkages have extended beyond technology to increased migration across countries and economies. The majority of Australians are positively accepting the fact that cultural diversity is an increasingly routine part of their lives. Almost one third of Darebin residents were born overseas, while almost one quarter of Darebin residents were born in non-English speaking countries.

Cultural diversity challenges organisations, including businesses and corporates, to purposefully engage - rather than alienate - this resource. Successful management and utilisation of diversity could well be the enabler of expansive growth in such organisations.

The Working Diversity project will address the economic challenges and opportunities presented by the cultural diversity of Darebin's growing business sector.

The project has three main activities:

- A *Diversity Index* which will evaluate the performance of a range of businesses by assessing the way they manage the challenges and opportunities associated with cultural and religious diversity, and the extent to which they take advantage of diversity not only to promote cultural harmony but also to increase productivity, customer satisfaction, community approval and export prospects (where this applies), and generally contribute to a congenial work environment. This assessment would be based on a carefully crafted questionnaire using a manageable number of key benchmarks.
- Annual *Diversity Awards* granted to businesses that have recorded the highest scores in the Diversity Index.
- Business engagement in the form of *Quarterly Dialogue Sessions* to build a relationship with the business community in Darebin in the context of sustaining organisational vitality of diversity.

The Centre will conduct the pilot project with Darebin City Council in early 2012, and plans to extend to other councils in the region and around Victoria in coming years.

## Australia-Indonesia Dialogue (2010 - 2015)

In January 2011, the Centre for Dialogue and Indonesia's *Universitas Islam Negri* (UIN) - Faculty of Social and Political Science (FISIP) and Centre for the Study of Islam and Society (PPIM) - signed a MoU; to jointly organise the *Australia-Indonesia Dialogue* project.

The first in a series of dialogues, themed *The Relationship between State and Religion in Southeast Asia and Australia*, will be hosted by UIN on 5-6 June 2012 in Bogor, West Java. The event comprises four sessions:

- The Politics of Religious Diversity, State Legal Framework and Religious Identity: Indonesia and Australia as case studies;
- In Search of Better Relations between the State and Religion in a Regional Context;
- Regulating Religion: Cases from Southeast Asia and Australia; and
- The Emergence of New Religious Movements in Southeast Asia and Australia.

The ten Australian and ten Indonesian delegates to the dialogue is made up of a number of scholars and experts, retired or serving policy makers, journalists and religious or community leaders who are known to have a strong interest in the relationship between state and religion. They will be accompanied by four invited participants from nominated Southeast Asian countries.

Organisers have in mind a significant publication, in an internationally refereed journal and/or as an edited book to be published in both Indonesian and English.

The Centre wishes to acknowledge the financial support of the AusAID International Seminar Support Scheme and the Victorian State Government Department of Premier and Cabinet. UIN has secured the support of the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs.

## Australia-Turkey Dialogue (2011 - 2015)

The Australia-Turkey Dialogue still remains in its nascent stages. We are in the process of securing a Turkish partner, and have made overtures towards three institutions – Institute of Strategic Thinking (SDE), Şehir University, and Marmara University – which are based in Ankara and Istanbul. As SDE was the first institution approached, negotiations with them are more advanced. The Centre is awaiting feedback on the draft MoU provided to SDE. Should this be positive, it is likely that the MoU will be formalised in early 2012.

The Australia-Turkey Dialogue is part of the *Australia and The Muslim World* project, funded by the Victorian State Government Department of Premier and Cabinet.

### Advertisement

## PhD Top-Up Scholarship

Are you, or do you know of, a high-quality candidate with a PhD project that aligns closely with the research interests of the Centre for Dialogue?

The *Centre for Dialogue PhD Top-Up Scholarship* is valued at AUD5,000 per annum, tax free, for three years' full time study.

For further information, including selection criteria, closing dates and application procedure, please email: [dialogue@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:dialogue@latrobe.edu.au)

## CONTINUING IN 2011

### Australia-Malaysia Dialogue

*(ongoing)*

An initiative of the Centre, the first Australia-Malaysia Dialogue, jointly sponsored with CENPRIS, Universiti Sains Malaysia, was held in Penang in 2009.

The second dialogue, held at La Trobe University on 5 and 6 December 2011, was jointly coordinated with the Institute of ASEAN Studies and Global Affairs (INSPAG), FSPPP, Universiti Teknologi MARA Malaysia.

The broader objectives of the Australia-Malaysia Dialogue are to:

1. consider policy issues of interest to the two countries, with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region and global security;
2. consider ways of improving dialogue and cooperation between the two countries, including intellectual exchanges, with a policy focus;
3. make recommendations, where appropriate, to governments, regional organisations, academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders in line with the two above objectives;
4. publish, in different formats, the papers and discussions emanating from the dialogues.

The Melbourne dialogue brought together leading academics, experts, serving and retired diplomats, policy-makers, senior journalists and community leaders from both countries to discuss the main theme of 'Malaysia and Australia addressing regional and global challenges' with a subsequent sub-theme being 'The challenge of managing plural societies'.

The Malaysian team was led by Dato' Dr Mohd Yusof Ahmad, and Prof Dr K. S. Nathan.

Presenters focussed on issues of regional and global security of interest to the two countries, while others addressed the challenges posed for Australia and Malaysia by ethnic and religious diversity.

This dialogue was made possible by the generous support of the Australia-Malaysia Institute of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



*Dr Ahmad, Prof Nathan and Prof Camilleri with delegates of the second Australia-Malaysia Dialogue held at La Trobe, December 2011*

## Muslim Leadership Training Program

*(Conducted in association with the Islamic Council of Victoria, 2007 - 2015)*

This landmark project has now been operating for over five years. It is coordinated by the Centre in collaboration with the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) and with the support of the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement, Australian Catholic University and the Forum on Australia's Islamic Relations (FAIR).

The Muslim Leadership Training Program (MLTP) has generous funding from the State Government of Victoria. The participation of nine young Muslims from Southeast Asia was funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Regional Outreach Program and the Australia-Thailand and Australia-Malaysia Institutes of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Federal Attorney-General's Department provided funding for the participation of six emerging Muslim leaders from Sydney.



*The nine participants from South East Asia - Parliament House, Canberra*

These prospective future leaders were introduced to a wide range of learning opportunities, each carefully integrated with the others. Participants were challenged intellectually, culturally and psychologically. The program offered many opportunities for learning how leadership roles throw up challenges in different spheres of life.

### *Developing leadership skills*

Varied methods of teaching and learning were used to further develop nascent leadership skills amongst these emerging leaders. They were given opportunities to converse, engage and debate with expert guest lecturers; encouraged to partake in robust discussions in workshops and to harness their writing skills for media publication; and participated in role plays, seminars and other such dialogical formats throughout the course of the program.

### *Participants Profile*

Muslim communities in Australia are diverse and plural constituencies comprised of their older elements, such as Turkish and Lebanese, as well as more recent ethno-migrant groupings such as the Somali and Sudanese communities. Applicants for the 2011 program included members of both genders from a wide-range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

### *APPROACH*

Over seven weeks the group of 23 young leaders had dozens of conversations about the way that our society functions politically, economically, culturally and spiritually.

### *Meetings with community leaders*

The group engaged in many formal and informal meetings with leaders from varied cultural backgrounds and at different societal levels. These included meetings with indigenous leaders, various politicians (at local, state and federal levels), lawyers and judges, journalists, academics, diplomats, business leaders, community representatives and faith leaders of all religious persuasions.



*Muslim Leaders meeting with ABC journalists in Sydney*

### *Study Tours: Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne*

The study tours in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne were carefully planned with local knowledge and an overall concept of introducing the participants to people of influence across different layers of society. They made use of the Centre's extensive contacts and networks both within Victoria and around Australia.

### *OUTCOMES*

2011 saw a number of significant new developments for the program. Continued support from the Victorian state government and new funding from the Attorney-General's Office enabled the Centre to bring together eight Victorian participants with six delegates from New South Wales. 2011 was thus also the first time that emerging leaders from the Muslim communities of Melbourne were able to meet and engage in dialogue with their counterparts from Sydney, home to Australia's largest Muslim population. These encounters proved so enlivening and thought-provoking that many of the participants decided to put together an edited volume exploring life in the multifaceted Muslim communities of Australia's two largest cities.

Another significant 'first' was the inclusion of a Singaporean participant - made possible through the generous support of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (*Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura/MUIS*). The strong Southeast Asian presence at this year's program, representing a region that is home to the second largest Muslim community after the Indian subcontinent, ensured that a global perspective was kept strongly at the core of all encounters. All participants took part in a series of sometimes robust debates about Australian identity, perception and role in the region, and the Southeast Asian delegates were introduced to some of the major concerns of top-level decision-makers in Australia's political elite.

Finally, 2011 saw the launch of a new initiative - *The M Project* - that will help consolidate the friendships and networking between MLTP alumni by providing vital creative and imaginative space for Muslim intellectuals to deliver a range of Islamic responses to the truly big challenges facing humankind. For further details of *The M Project*, see page 8.

## Cyprus Academic Dialogue (CAD)

(2009 - ongoing)

In 2009 the Centre was commissioned by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to design, organise and conduct a set of dialogues amongst Cypriot academics and scholars in Cyprus. Supported by the Australian High Commission and the European Commission Representation in Cyprus, in mid-2010 the Centre facilitated a set of two dialogues at the J. William Fulbright Centre in Nicosia's Buffer Zone. Bringing together 27 eminent Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot academics and scholars, the CAD examined all aspects of the Cyprus problem, but in a forward-looking manner, resulting in the establishment of a bicomunal Civil Society Organisation.



Having drafted a Charter and set up its own internal structures, the CAD has since been engaged in a prolific set of activities that seek to enhance and enrich the Cyprus peace process through the dissemination of ideas, robust debate and responsible advocacy. Some of these activities throughout 2011 included:

- Drafting documents that reflect the CAD's stand on issues such as the elusive and highly sensitive 'property issue';
- Meetings and consultations with key political figures, as well as with the intercommunal negotiators and their advisors;

*Dr Michael facilitating the second day of the Cyprus Academic Dialogue at Nicosia's Buffer Zone – July 2010*

- Bringing together 45 academics and intellectuals from both sides of the divide in a series of workshops to discuss 'What should be done towards a United Federal Cyprus' – the workshop produced a series of discussion papers and generated ideas on key aspects of the Cyprus problem;
- Organising a public debate on how 'Three Explosive Issues: 7-11 Explosion, Natural Gas controversy, and Cyprus Peace Talks', are interconnected, at the Home of Cooperation on 29 September;
- Co-sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Australian High Commission in Cyprus, organising a meeting between academics and intellectuals from Cyprus and Turkey in Istanbul on 19 November. Hosted by the Global Political Trends Center at Kültür University, the meeting released a joint statement that supported a 'peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem' as a 'common home for all of its communities in which all should have a shared, peaceful future'.

Participants included, from Cyprus: Ahmet Sözen (Eastern Mediterranean University), Aysu Basri (Journalist SIM TV, Yeni Duzen), Biran Mertan (Eastern Mediterranean University), Caesar Mavratsas (University of Cyprus), Chrysostomos Pericleous (Political Researcher, Author), Dionysis Dionysiou (Columnist), Kate Clerides (Chair, Institute for Eurodemocracy), Maria Hadjipavlou (University of Cyprus), Nicos Anastasiou (Inter Napa College), Niyazi Kızılyürek (University of Cyprus), Umut Bozkurt (Eastern Mediterranean University), and Yücel Vural (Eastern Mediterranean University). Turkish contributors included: Erdal Güven (Journalist, Writer), Fuat Keyman (Sabancı University), Hatice Simten Coşar (Başkent University), Ihsan Dagi (Middle East Technical University), Levent Köker (Atılım University), Mensur Akgün (Istanbul Kultur University), Serdar Değirmencioğlu (Cumhuriyet University), and Sylvia Tiryaki (Istanbul Kultur University).



During the visit of the President of the Republic of Cyprus (Mr Dimitris Christofias) to Australia, Prime Minister Julia Gillard reiterated Australia's support for 'community-focused initiatives such as the Cyprus Academic Dialogue' in their Joint Statement of 25 May 2011.

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## Australia-China High-Level Talks (2010 - 2013)

The Australia-China High-Level Talks (previously known as the Australia-China Dialogue) aims to promote a deeper understanding in each country of the political, cultural, economic and social outlook of the other by establishing a series of bilateral dialogues involving a diverse cross section of government, business and civil society actors.

Throughout 2011 widespread consultations took place to develop the agenda for the first set of dialogue events. Formal negotiations to establish Peking University (PKU) as the primary Chinese partner institution had been successful and led to a signing of a MoU. The year also featured close and continuing collaboration with the China Studies Centre at La Trobe University (and the recently established Confucius Institute, the opening of which is pictured on page 2), the Australia China Business Council (ACBC), the Victorian International Coordination Office (ICO) and East China Normal University (ECNU).

The project also produced a major research paper, co-authored by Joseph Camilleri, Aran Martin and Michális S. Michael, entitled *Courting the Dragon: Australia's Emerging Dialogue with China*, that examines the scope and limitations of Australia's emerging engagement with China.

## Decline of the West - Power Shift? Reality, Myths and Economists

The 2011 Centre for Dialogue Annual Lecture was delivered by Professor Mick Cox of the London School of Economics on 1 September 2011.

In excess of 500 people gathered at St Michael's on Collins in Melbourne, to hear Cox's often unconventional views on the future centres of global economic and political power. The evening was co-chaired by Prof Camilleri and Dr Francis Macnab.

During his visit to Melbourne, Prof Cox granted television and radio interviews and generated newspaper coverage.

The Centre wishes to thank volunteers David and Melanie Hunt for their assistance at the venue.



This section includes publications by current staff as well as work arising from research undertaken by past staff members and visiting fellows during their time with the Centre.

## Books

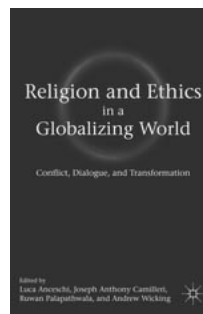
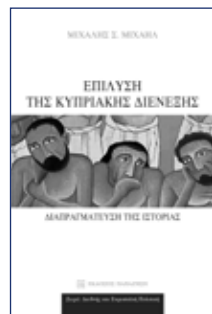
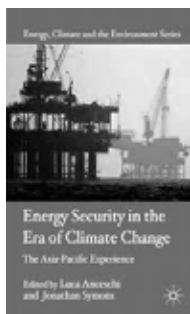
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## Reports & Submissions

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Camilleri, J. A. & Schottmann, S. A. (forthcoming). 'Introduction: Culture, religion and the Southeast Asian State,' in Camilleri & Schottmann (eds), *Negotiating tense pluralisms: Culture, religion and conflict in Muslim Southeast Asia*. London: Routledge.

Michael, Michális S. (accepted for publication 2012-2013). "'Cypriot-led, Cypriot-owned" – Cyprus Talks Revisited'. *Australian Journal of International Affairs*.

Montiel, Cristina J. with Rodil, R. and de Guzman, J. (in print due 28 February 2012). 'The Moro Struggle and the Challenge to Peacebuilding in Mindanao, Southern Philippines,' in D. Landis & R. D. Albert (eds), *Handbook of Ethnic Conflict: International Perspectives*. NY: Springer.

Schottmann, S. A. (forthcoming). 'Brunei,' in *Encyclopaedia of Cultural Sociology, Volume 3: Cultural Sociology of East Asia; Part 3 1900 to Present* (Accepted for publication).

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Schottmann, S. A. (2012). 'Thinking about sovereignty: Mahathir Mohamad on the conceptual bases of Malaysian statehood and national identity,' Conference proceedings to be published online.

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Schottmann, S. A. (forthcoming). 'Paving the ground? Malaysia's democratic prospects and the Mahathir government's Islamic discourse,' in Camilleri & Schottmann (eds), *Negotiating tense pluralisms: Culture, religion and conflict in Muslim Southeast Asia*. London: Routledge (under contract).

Schottmann, S. A. (forthcoming). 'Allah helps those who help themselves: Islam according to Mahathir Mohamad,' in forthcoming volume on Malay politics edited by Gerhard Hoffstaedter.

Schottmann, S. A. (2012). Review of 'Islam and popular culture in Indonesia and Malaysia' edited by Andrew Weintraub (2011) in *Sojourn Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 26(2) (Accepted for publication).

Schottmann, S. A. (2012). Review of 'Malaysia's foreign policy: The first fifty years' by Johan Saravanamuttu (2010) in *Global Change, Peace & Security* 24(1) (Accepted for publication).

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*Reassessed: History, Religion and Belonging*. London: Routledge.

Siokou, C., Dwyer, R., Pennay, A., Green, R., Barratt, M.J., Thomson, N. and Moore, D (in press due 2012). 'The social contexts and cultural meanings of ATS use and their implications for policy and practice,' in S. Allsop & N. Lee (eds), *Understanding and responding to Amphetamine Type Stimulants*. I.P Communications.

Siokou, C., Dray, A., Perez, P., Moore, D., Dietze, P., Bammer, G., Jenkinson, R., Green, R., Hudson, S. and Maher, L. (in press, due 2012). 'Are drug detection dogs and mass-media campaigns likely to be effective policy responses to psychostimulant use and related harm? Results from an agent-based simulation model.' *International Journal of Drug Policy* published on line 11 July 2011.

Tittensor, D. (Forthcoming, April 2012). 'The Gülen Movement and the Case of a Secret Agenda: Putting the Debate in Perspective.' *Journal of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 23(2), pp. 163-179.

Winarnita, M. (Forthcoming, March 2012). 'The politics of commemorating the May 1998 mass rapes.' *RIMA: Review of Indonesian and Malaysian Affairs* 45(1).

## Opinion pieces

Michael, Michàlis S. 'New PM for Greece but will a new government save the country from the debt crisis?'. *The Conversation*, 7 November 2011.

Schottmann, S. A. 'ICV and La Trobe University celebrate growing partnership'. *Al Wasaf*, no. 18, Dhulqa'dah 1432/October 2011, p. 33.

Tittensor, D. 'Australia's Burqa Fallacy'. *Eureka Street* 21(5), 2 August 2011.

## Working Paper series

The Centre also publishes a regular series of working papers. In 2011, the octogenarian peace and anti-nuclear activist, Les Dalton agreed to publish a partly autobiographical history of the Australian peace movement in the little known period between the 1930s and 1960s. The paper was launched at the Centre's annual lecture in September and a number of copies have since been sold. The working paper series will continue in 2012 and four authors have expressed interest to publish their work. The working papers are edited by Dr Sven Alexander Schottmann.

## Academic Journal

*Global Change Peace & Security (GCP&S)* has continued to represent itself as a leading refereed journal throughout 2011, grappling with the difficult practical and theoretical questions posed by a rapidly globalising world.

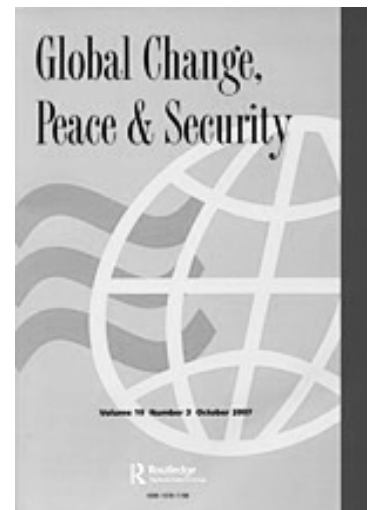
Issues of *GCP&S* in 2011 have included:

**Issue 1 of 2011 (23(1))** including a special issue on the fourth biennial Oceanic Conference on International Studies (OCIS IV), guest-edited by members of the OCIS IV Committee, Jacqui True and Anita Lacey (University of Auckland) and David Capie and Robbie Shilliam (Victoria University of Wellington, NZ).

**Issue 2 of 2011 (23(2))** including a special section on China and Climate Change, with guest editor Paul Harris (Hong Kong Institute of Education).

**Issue 3 of 2011 (23(3))** including a forum on James Mittelman's 'Hyperconflict', with contributions from James Mittelman (American University), Cyril Obi (The Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden), Shirin Rai (University of Warwick, UK) and David Capie (Victoria University of Wellington, NZ).

**Issue 1 of 2012 (24(1))** which is to be produced in February of 2012, will contain a special forum on Joseph A. Camilleri and Jim Falk's *Worlds in Transition*, with contributions from Thomas G. Weiss (CUNY, USA), Kees van der Pijl (Sussex), Craig Murphy (U Mass Boston; Wellesley, USA) and Richard Devetak and Tim Dunne (UQ).



2011 also saw the continuation of *GCP&S*'s strong performance in online markets, continuing a trend of increased volumes of full text downloads via standard platforms and EBSCO host databases.

The winner of the **2010 Routledge-Global Change, Peace & Security Annual Essay Prize**, Dr Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed (University of Sussex, UK), received publication in issue 23(2) with his entry 'The International Relations of crisis and the crisis of International Relations: from the securitisation of scarcity to the militarisation of society'. Entries for the 2011 essay competition have been received and will be refereed over January and February, with the winner being announced in March 2012.

After serving for three years, Dr Stephen James stepped down as editor of *GCP&S* in late 2011. Dr James' professionalism and dedication to the role has placed the journal in a strong position going forward. The journal welcomes its new editor, Mr Aran Martin, who will guide the journal as it continues to set a high standard in the field of international political, economic and cultural academic research.

## seminarseries

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The Centre's highly successful seminar series continued in 2011 and was able to attract high-calibre speakers as well as significant interest from the academic community at La Trobe and the wider public. In some cases, audience members travelled from across town to hear the speakers.

The seminar topics range from religion in international relations to the role of gender in conflict, and dialogical encounters in diasporic communities. This broad range of themes reflects the diverse research interests of the staff and affiliates of the Centre.

The 2011 series included the following seminars:

- 'Between earth and heaven: The politics of gender in East Timor' Dr Sara Niner (Monash University)
- 'The Preah Vihear temple dispute: When cosmic nationalisms fuel conflict' Honorary Ambassador Julio Jeldres (PhD student at Monash University and official biographer of King Norodom Sihanouk)
- 'Cross-Straits Relations in the Post-ECFA Period' Professor Liou To-Hai (Visiting Research Fellow from the National Chengchi University in Taipei)
- 'Chaos or the Triumph of Civil Society? Bersih 2.0 through the Eyes of the State and the People' Assistant Professor Syed Muhammad Khairudin Aljunied (National University of Singapore)
- 'Polish-Jewish Dialogue in Australia' Dr Alexander Naraniecki (Deakin University)
- 'Another India: The construction of modern Odiya identity' HE Dr Subhakanta Behera (Indian Consul General)
- 'After Jihad: Three streams of Islamist activism in Indonesia' Dr Najib Azca (Gajahmada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)

The seminar series is coordinated by Dr Sven Alexander Schottmann.

## visitingfellows

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In 2011, the Centre has been fortunate to host two engaging and high-calibre visiting fellows.



Prof **Liou To-Hai** is Director of the Centre for WTO Studies and the Centre for Australian Studies in the College of International Affairs of National Chengchi University, Taipei.

The recipient of an Australian Government *Endeavour Award*, he visited the Centre from June to September 2011, where he continued his research into relations between Taiwan and mainland China, delivered a thought-provoking seminar and assisted with the International Symposium.



Dr **Michael T Seigel** is a permanent Research Fellow of the Nanzan University Institute for Social Ethics (Japan) and has been hosted by the Centre since September 2011. He will continue his work with the Centre through February of 2012.

Dr Seigel's research centres around citizen engagement and the use of consensus building models in decision-making and for dialogue on intractable issues in general.

# mediacoverage

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## January

Larry Marshall featured in an introductory piece to the Indonesian Language Breakfast program on ABC Radio Australia (in Bahasa) on 7 January. What followed was a 15-minute interview with two Indonesian alumni of the Muslim Leadership Training Program. Presenter Nuim Khaiyath asked Hendra Darmawan and Erifah Hidayati about their experiences in Australia, their panel presentation at the international conference in Padang in December 2010 and their enthusiasm for working together as part of *The M Project* (see page 7).

## February

Dr Michael was interviewed on the “Greek Program” (Radio 3ZZZ) on 3 February about developments in Egypt and the Arab world.

An article by Margaret Paul entitled ‘Education key to Cyprus solution’, discussing Dr Michael’s work on the Cypriot Academic Dialogue, appeared in *Neos Kosmos* online on 13 February.

Dr Michael was interviewed on ABC TV News Breakfast on 15 February.

## April

The Centre was mentioned in Victorian State Parliament on 5 April by Mr Craig Ondarchie MP, who congratulated the Centre for its leadership in developing the Northern Interfaith Intercultural Network.

## June

On 21 June, Iman Riman of SBS Radio’s Arabic Program interviewed Dr Michael about the International Symposium *The Obama Middle East Peace Initiative: Lessons Leant and Implications for a Dialogical Roadmap for Peace*.

## July

Dr Michael was interviewed by the editors of *World Politics Review* ‘Global Insider: Cyprus Peace Talks’ on 27 July.

## August

Dr Tittensor’s opinion piece ‘Australia’s Burqa Fallacy’ appeared in *Eureka Street* online on 2 August.

Centre for Dialogue Annual Lecturer, Prof Michael Cox appeared on ABC Radio Melbourne on 30 August as part of the Drive program with Lindy Burns.

Later the same day, Prof Cox was interviewed by Ali Moore on Lateline (ABC TV).

## September

Dr Michael was interviewed on the “Greek Program” (Radio 3ZZZ) on 8 September about Libya, the Centre’s Annual Lecture and PM Julia Gillard.

## October

*Neos Kosmos English* interviewed Dr Michael about former Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat’s visit to Australia on 1 October.

On 14 October, Dr Michael was interviewed on SBS Radio’s *News of the World* about Turkey, Israel, gas and oil exploration, and the Cyprus talks.

## November

Dr Michael was interviewed on the “Greek Program” (SBS Radio) on 3 November about the Reconciling Divided Communities in Victoria project.

The *Conversation* online published an opinion piece by Dr Michael entitled ‘New PM for Greece but will a new government save the country from the debt crisis?’ on 7 November.

Dr Tittensor made an appearance on *Melbourne 22* (Channel 31 Community TV) on 7 November, to discuss the Burqa debate.

Larry Marshall was interviewed on Channel 31 on 24 November about the history of multiculturalism in Australia.

On 22 November, La Trobe University News featured an interview with Dr Michael on ‘Political turmoil in Greece’

## National

Camilleri, J. A. 'A holoreflexive epoch in the making: Implications for democracy'. *Democratising Governance Conference*, Deakin University, November 2011.

Michael, M. S. 'Harmony through Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue', *Harmony through Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue Forum*, Hume City Council & Hume Interfaith Network, Hume Global Learning Centre, Broadmeadows, March 2011.

Michael, M. S. 'Dialogue Diaspora: Locating Australia's Diaspora in Conflict Resolution'. *Forced or Free? Conference*, La Trobe University, November 2011.

Michael, M. S. 'Reconciling Cyprus's Porous Democratic Governance'. *Democratising Governance Conference*, Deakin University, November 2011.

Schottmann, S. A. 'Allah helps those who help themselves: The theology of Mahathir Mohamad'. *17th Malaysia and Singapore Society of Australia Colloquium*, Australian National University, Canberra, December 2011.

Schottmann, S. A. 'Debating secularism: Australian Muslim social actors on legal pluralism and multiculturalism'. *2nd Australia-Malaysia Dialogue*, Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University, December 2011.

Schottmann, S. A. 'From duty to choice: Advertising Islamic banking in Malaysia'. *Ethics in Financial Transactions and Society Conference*, National Centre for Excellence in Islamic Studies, University of Melbourne, September 2011.

Siokou, C. 'Ethnicity, drugs and the changing face of Melbourne's dance party/club scene'. *Young people, risk and resilience: The challenges of alcohol, drugs and violence Conference*, Australian Institute of Criminology, Melbourne, March 2011.

Siokou, C. 'Party drug use amongst the children of migrants within Melbourne's dance party/club scene'. *Forced or Free? Conference*, La Trobe University, November 2011.

Tittensor, D. 'Towards a Fourth Sector: Gülen's Schools Between Philanthropy and Capitalism'. *ACFID - Universities Linkage Network Conference: An Australian Approach to Development? People, Practice and Policy*, Deakin University, December 2011.

Tittensor, D. 'The Changing Nature of Islamic Mission.' *Deakin Islam and Development Roundtable*, Deakin University, December 2011.

Winarnita, M. 'Migration & the multicultural stage: Chinese Indonesians' performance in Perth.' *60 years of Anthropology at ANU: Contesting Anthropology's Future Anniversary Conference*, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, September 2011.

Winarnita, M. 'Chinese Indonesians: refugee status, cultural performance and localising identity.' *La Trobe Refugee Research Centre Postgraduate Seminar*, La Trobe University, October 2011.



Winarnita, M. 'Not belonging to a diaspora: Chinese Indonesians in Perth and their cultural performances.' *New Communities, New Racisms, 4th Biennial Asian Australian Studies Research Network Conference*, University of Melbourne, November 2011.

Winarnita, M. 'Migration among Cocos Island "Malays": Forced or Free?'. *Forced or Free? Conference*, La Trobe University, November 2011.

Winarnita, M. 'The Chinese-Jakartan dance in Perth WA: how transnational belonging is performed as cultural syncretism' *The Belonging Project Symposium*, University of Melbourne, December 2011.

## International

Camilleri, J. A. 'Protection of the sacred in Australia'. *Protecting Sacred Spaces Conference*, Bangkok, Thailand, May 2011.

Camilleri, J. A. 'The challenge-response dynamic of our time: A new epoch in the making?'. *Beijing Forum 2011: The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All – Tradition and Modernity, Transition and Transformation*. Peking University, November 2011.

Camilleri, J. A. 'Institutionalising the dialogue of cultures and faiths in Asia'. *International Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Cultures in Asia*, Tehran, September 2011.

Camilleri, J. A. 'Worlds in transition: The limits of secularism and post-secularism'. Keynote Paper presented at ESRC-sponsored international conference *The Postsecular in International Politics*, University of Sussex, UK, October 2011.

Marshall, L. (with Hidayati, N. and Hidayati, E.) 'Young Muslim Leaders Confront the AIDS Pandemic in Indonesia'. *VII Biennial Conference: Leadership in the Multicultural World: Exploring New Frontiers of Leadership Theory, Method and Practice*, International Academy for Intercultural Research, Singapore, July 2011.

Schottmann, S. A. 'Contemplating alternatives: Bangsa and agama as alternative conceptions of political community in the public discourse of Mahathir Mohamad'. Paper presented at 'The evolution of modern sovereignty in the Muslim world' panel, *Islam and Multiculturalism Conference*, Waseda University, Tokyo, November 2011.

Schottmann, S. A. 'Looking West, again: Perceptions of Turkey and Turkish secularism among Malaysian Muslim social actors'. Paper presented at 'The Politics of Islam' panel, joint conference of the *Association of Asian Studies and International Conference of Asian Scholars*, Honolulu, March 2011.

Tittensor, D. (with F Anderson). 'European Identity and Turkey: Reconstituting the Symbolic Order/Other'. *Globalization, Illiberalism, the West and Islam: European and Australian Perspectives*, Monash European and EU Centre, Prato, Italy, June 2011.



Prof  
Camilleri  
speaking  
in Tehran -  
September  
2011

Prof Camilleri represented the Centre for Dialogue at a number of receptions, dinners and roundtables hosted by diplomatic missions in Australia, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Victorian ministers, AsiaLink, and the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

Of particular note, he participated in the inaugural Policy Roundtable sponsored by The Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW) in partnership with DFAT at the Australian National University in June. Prof Camilleri also participated at the invitation of the Qatar Government in the UN Alliance of Civilizations 4th Annual Forum held in December in Doha, Qatar, under the theme 'Intercultural Dialogue to Boost Development'.

As deputy director of the Centre, Dr Michael was referred to as an 'outstanding' Cypriot Australian by the Governor-General during the state dinner in honour of visiting President of the Cyprus Republic Dimitris Christofias, in particular for his work and contribution to the Cyprus peace process, including the establishment of the Cyprus Academic Dialogue.

Members of staff are actively involved in extracurricular activities related to dialogue, leadership and inter-cultural and interfaith initiatives. This section highlights some of their work.



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*Prof Camilleri at the induction of Revd RD Ruwan Palapathwala, Dubai - October 2011*

### Keynotes and Guest Lectures

Larry Marshall presented a session on Cross-Cultural Communication at the two-day *Infinity Leadership* conference at La Trobe University in February.

In May, Dr Schottmann delivered a guest lecture entitled 'Political Islam in Malaysia: Recent developments in discourse' to students of the Master of Asian Studies Program at Monash University.

Deakin University's politics program invited Dr Tittensor to deliver a guest lecture on Nationalism in August.

Prof Camilleri delivered the ANU Chaplaincy Annual Board Lecture, 'Islam and the West: Conflict or Dialogue?' at Burgmann College, ANU, in August.

'Islamic Traditionalism in Turkey' was the theme of Dr Tittensor's seminar for the Centre's *Muslim Leadership Training Program* in October.

Prof Camilleri delivered the keynote address at the induction of Revd RD Ruwan Palapathwala as the Senior Chaplain of the Chaplaincy of Dubai and Sharjah with the Northern Emirates by the *Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf, the Right Reverend Michael Lewis*, at a ceremony at Holy Trinity Church in Dubai on October 16.

### Committee Membership (external)

Dr Michael is a member of La Trobe University's Middle East Advisory Council.

Dr Schottmann was invited to join the Islamic Council of Victoria as a Research Coordinator, enabling him to build stronger ties between the Centre for Dialogue and the peak body representing Victoria's Muslim communities.

Larry Marshall is involved with the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA), and acted as Secretary General at a Model UN session at RMIT University in September.

## Launches

Prof Camilleri launched the first volume of Judge Weeramantry's memoirs *Towards One World: The Memoirs of Judge C. G. Weeramantry, Volume I; The Sri Lankan Years*, at Box Hill Town Hall on 26 March.

He also addressed the launch of the Northern Interfaith and Intercultural Network (NIIN) at Preston Town Hall on 29 March.

*The Secret History of Democracy* edited by Benjamin Isakhan and Stephen Stockwell (Palgrave Macmillan 2011) was launched by Prof Camilleri at Readings in Carlton on 9 June.

## Assessors/Reviewers

Dr Michael reviews for the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, *Conflict and Cooperation*, and *Global Change, Peace & Security*.

Dr Schottmann reviewed for the *Asian Studies Review*, *Global Change, Peace & Security*, *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, the *Journal of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, the working paper series at the National University of Singapore's Asia Research Institute and the *La Trobe Journal* at the Victorian Library.

Dr Tittensor has reviewed for the *Journal of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*.

Ms Monika Winarnita is a reviewer for *Gender & Society*.

## Membership of Organising Committees

Dr Tittensor convened the symposium, 'The Obama Middle East Peace Initiative: Lessons Learnt and Implications for a Dialogical Roadmap for Peace', held at La Trobe University, Research & Development Park Conference Centre on 23 and 24 June.

Prof Camilleri, Mr Marshall and Dr Schottmann convened the 2nd Australia-Malaysia Dialogue held at La Trobe University on 5 and 6 December.

Dr Schottmann was co-convenor for the 17th Malaysia and Singapore Society of Australia Colloquium held at the Australian National University on 9 and 10 December.

The workshop, 'Islam and Development Roundtable' held at Deakin University, Burwood campus on 13 December was co-convened by Dr Tittensor.

Dr Schottmann has been appointed Muslim Faith Coordinator for the Winter Conference of the Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia, to be held at Palotti College in Millgrove between 1 and 4 July 2012.

## Community Engagement

The Centre works with the Anti-Discrimination Commission on a Multi-Faith Camp run in Kyneton, Victoria each February. Participation from the Muslim community is strongly encouraged, and Larry Marshall runs the evaluation session.

In partnership with Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre (MRC), the Centre conducts a mentoring project for Iraqi, Kurdish and Somali youth, entitled *Voices for Change*. An introductory workshop on dialogue across cultures and faiths was held in November 2011. Further workshops planned for 2012 will cover *Conflict Resolution* and *Media and Diversity*.

## March

Northern Interfaith and Intercultural Network (NIIN) launch. Darebin City Hall 29 March 2011.

Joint Standing Committee on Migration  
First public hearing of the *Inquiry on Multiculturalism in Australia*. Held at CfD 29 March 2011.

## April

*Ms Einat Weiss*  
Deputy Ambassador and Spokesperson - Embassy of Israel. Visit to CfD 6 April 2011.

## May

*Ms Jamie Lowe and Ms Branka Gajic*  
Attorney-General's Department. Visit to CfD 4 May 2011.

*Religion and Ethics in a Globalising World* (ed Prof Camilleri and Dr Luca Anceschi). Book Launch, Sydney Myer Asia Centre, University of Melbourne 5 May 2011.

*Professor Rajiva Wijesinghe, MP*  
Sri Lankan Consul-General, and former Secretary-General for Coordinating the Peace Process. Visit to CfD 17 May 2011.

*Professor Wu Zhipan*  
Executive Vice President of Peking University. Visit to CfD 26 May 2011.

## June

*The Secret History of Democracy* (ed Dr Ben Isakhan with Stephen Stockwell). Book Launch, Readings book shop, Carlton 9 June 2011.

*Mr Mohamed Khairat*  
Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Round Table discussion, La Trobe University 16 June 2011.

*The Obama Middle East Peace Initiative: Lessons Learnt and Implications for a Dialogical Roadmap for Peace*. International Symposium at La Trobe, 23-24 June 2011 (*see page 28*).

*Multicultural Panel and Community Dialogue*  
The Light in Winter Festival, BMW Edge, Federation Square Melbourne, 24 June 2011 (*see box opposite*).

*Mr Yiannis Iakovou*  
Cyprus High Commissioner. Meeting with Michális S. Michael, 28 June 2011.

## July

*Mr Frank Maguire, MP*  
Member for Broadmeadows. Hosting CfD delegation, 11 July 2011.

*Mr Trevor Peacock*  
Australian High Commissioner (designate) to Cyprus. Visit to CfD 29 July 2011.

## August

*Dr Ghassan Khatib*  
Special Envoy of President Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian National Authority, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO. Meeting with Dr Michális Michael 2 August 2011.

*Hiroshima START Program*  
A delegation of 24 students and three teachers (*pictured below*) from Hiroshima University visited Melbourne from 23 August to 7 September 2011. The tour, organised by the Centre for Dialogue in conjunction with La Trobe's International Programs Office, covered a varied program of activities, including a lecture on cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue by Larry Marshall.



## September

### *Centre for Dialogue 2011 Annual Lecture*

Professor Michael Cox

Professor of International Relations/Director of IDEAS (a centre for the study of diplomacy and strategy), London School of Economics. 1 September 2011 (*see page 15*).

### *Professor Adam Possamai*

Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies at the University of Western Sydney visited to discuss collaboration on the *Muslim Leadership Training Program* (MLTP) on 7 September 2011.

### *Dr Mohamed Rameez Yahya*

Consul General of Malaysia in Melbourne. Visit to CfD and consultation with MLTP participants from Malaysia, 12 September 2011.

### *Thai School Principals*

A delegation of school principals from Thailand's restive southern provinces visited CfD on 16 September 2011. Along with representatives of the Thai Embassy in Canberra and the kingdom's Ministry of Education, they were able to meet delegates of the 2011 Muslim Leadership Training Program and discuss educational reform and reconciliation in the South,

### *Dr Syed Muhammad Khairudin Aljunied*

Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore. Dr Aljunied was invited as the visiting academic for the Muslim Leadership Training Program. During his ten day visit to Melbourne, Dr Aljunied provided a series of seminars for the program's 23 participants, gave guest lectures on Southeast Asian politics at Monash and Deakin universities, spoke to the Malay-Muslim community of the northern suburbs at Broadmeadows Youth Centre, was interviewed by the ABC's Radio Australia service and met the Centre for Dialogue's friends from the Uniting Church for an informal interfaith dialogue.

## Community Dialogue at BMW Edge

This multicultural dialogue was part of the annual *Light in Winter* celebrations at Federation Square. Artistic Director Robyn Archer brings alive the work of sixteen migrant and indigenous communities in song, theatre, dance and dialogue. The theme for 2011 was *FIRE*, and its place in our cultures. A panel of nine guests from varying backgrounds (pictured on page 2) was brought together by the CfD to discuss the reality of multicultural living in Victoria.

The dialogue was supported by the Myer Foundation and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

## October

### *Inaugural Australia-China Student Forum: Bridging for excellence and prosperity.*

This reciprocal program is co-organised by the Centre for China Studies and the Division of Residential Services of La Trobe University and the Office of International Relations of Peking University. 20 student participants from Peking University and 21 from La Trobe attended seminars and participated in a student forum and student dialogue (facilitated by Dr Michális Michael), all under the theme of 'Youth and Intercultural Insight'. October 2011.

## November

Young Leaders from Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre hosted at CfD 17 November 2011.

102 students and 15 staff from Shimokitazawa High School in Japan Introduction to Education at La Trobe, and cross-cultural communication, 25 November 2011.

## December

### *Ambassador Nasir Ahmad Andisha*

Afghani Ambassador, 15 December 2011.

## The Obama Middle East Peace Initiative: Lessons Learnt and Implications for a Dialogical Roadmap for Peace

*International Symposium, La Trobe University 23-24 June 2011*

With the recent Arab Spring, which began with a fiery demonstration by a lone individual in Tunisia in March 2011, and has since seen revolutionary protests erupt across the Middle East (with recent reverberations in other Muslim countries such as Malaysia), the Arab-Israeli conflict runs the risk of being sidelined. However, it was the view of the Centre for Dialogue that the resolution of the longstanding conflict remains central to the stability of the region.

Thus, the aim of the Symposium was to situate the current attempt of the Obama Administration to resuscitate the ailing peace process, and to ascertain what is required to achieve success in the rapidly changing geo-political landscape in the Middle East. To this end the Centre brought a variety of experts from the United States, Lebanon, the UK and Israel - with expertise in conflict resolution, US Foreign Policy and the Israeli and Palestinian positions - together with local scholars, Federal politicians and policy makers to seek a 'dialogical roadmap towards peace.' A range of activists from many of the diaspora communities related to the conflict also attended, adding extra spice and insight to this already very complex and emotional issue during the Q & A sessions.

Day one began with an engaging Key Note presentation by Emeritus Professor Oliver Ramsbotham (Bradford University, UK). He provided the theoretical foundation for the Symposium, advocating for 'agonistic dialogue' wherein each party needs to first engage in internal dialogue that examines both the best and worst case scenarios and to strive to win, rather than simply make concessions. Further to this, Ramsbotham brought into question the efficacy of third party negotiators, as they are never neutral, and posited that perhaps the Palestinians needed to take unilateral action and seek recognition through the UN as a last resort.

These last two points in particular would become recurring issues throughout the conference. In the following session entitled 'Obama in Review', Dr Scott Lasensky (United States Institute for Peace) suggested that the continued failure of the US peace process was due to the tendency for each President - Obama included - to hit the policy reset button, as opposed to building on the work of their predecessors. Professor Avraham Sela (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) also questioned the efficacy of the US as an adequate third party negotiator, as it is often governed by interests that are in conflict with both of the protagonists. He suggested that a mediator should only be sought after an impasse had been reached.

In contrast, the second day was punctuated by calls from Professor Amin Saikal (ANU) and Dr Karim Makdisi (American University of Beirut) to bypass the US entirely and act unilaterally by seeking 'symbolic' recognition as a State at the UN, in line with Ramsbotham's last resort. In particular Saikal stressed that such an act would place significant international pressure on Israel and would create a more equitable bargaining environment.

Complementing these engaging presentations were two round tables that included, amongst others, Ms Maria Vamvakinou (Federal Member for Calwell) and Ms Sussan Ley (Federal Member for Farrer), who were both part of a recent Parliamentary delegation to Palestine; Senator Scott Ryan (Victoria), Izzat Abdulhadi (Palestinian Delegate to Australia, New Zealand the Pacific) and Colin Rubenstein (Australian Israeli-Jewish Affairs Council). These provided thoughtful and reflective discussion on many of the key issues in the negotiations, such as 'right of return', pre-1967 borders, and East Jerusalem.

Bookending the symposium was a thought-provoking presentation by Professor William Harris (Otago University, NZ), which placed the Palestinian

plight within the context of the Arab Spring; in particular the possibility of regime change in Syria. He argued that the possible disruption of the Syrian/Iranian/Hezbollah alignment through regime change could represent an opportunity for the US to move peace talks forward.

The conference was covered by SBS Arabic (Special Broadcasting Service). This involved a write-up on their website and interviews with independent scholar Dr Jamal Sankari and Deputy Director of the Centre Dr Michális Michael. Of the international speakers, Professor Avraham Sela undertook a detailed interview. All of these are available on the SBS Arabic website.

Overall the event was a success with many people registering to participate and engage with our speakers and panellists. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with speakers grateful for the opportunity to meet other international scholars from their areas of specialisation.

One outcome of the Symposium is an innovative book proposal that is currently under discussion with an interested publisher. Further, all of the participants are keen to be involved and make contributions.

The Centre acknowledges the support of the Ian Potter Foundation in facilitate this event.



*Delegates on day one of the Symposium: (L-R) Dr Michális Michael, Dr David Tittensor, Prof Karim Makdisi, Prof Joseph Camilleri, Dr Anthony Billingsley, Prof Oliver Ramsbotham, Dr Chris Freise, Dr Scott Lasensky, Prof Avraham Sela, Prof Liou To-Hai and Dr Sven Schottmann*

## Internships and Supervision

Throughout 2011 the Centre had two interns under the supervision of the Centre's deputy director, Dr Michális Michael.

As part of his studies Simon Bobko (POL3PCW, Semester 1) worked on the Centre's Victorian Interfaith Survey project and produced a comprehensive report on the interfaith movement in Victoria as a whole.

During the second semester Tim Byrne (POL3PCW) assisted in the design of a database of dialogue-related literature in accordance to a taxonomy of subjects, sub-subjects and keywords.

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## Executive Committee

The newly constituted Executive Committee, chaired by Professor John Rosenberg (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, La Trobe University), assists the director in managing the day to day functioning of the Centre; administering the funds available to the Centre; and considering the Annual Report and other relevant reports. It will normally meet four times a year. The Executive Committee is comprised of Prof Rosenberg, Prof Joseph Camilleri, Dr Michális Michael, Dr Susan Martin, Dr Alberto Gomez and Mr Larry Marshall.

## Funding Working Group

The Group was established in the latter part of 2010 and has met regularly during 2011. Its main function is to oversee the Centre's grant application program; to identify new funding opportunities relevant to its research priorities; and to assist in the preparation of applications to funding bodies.



## DIRECTOR



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