

Monash Asia Institute Bulletin (1/2009)

6 February 2009

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Monash Asia Institute and Monash University News

1. 2009 Greetings from the Director, Monash Asia Institute

The MAI family of Centre Directors, postgraduates, fellows, distinguished scholars and staff welcomes all readers to the new academic year 2009 - the year of the ox. Despite the financial woes of the global economy, we optimistically look forward to a year of stimulating intellectual debate and research.

Our best wishes to you all,
Professor Marika Vicziany, Director

2. Classical Indian Dance Performance

Monash University Academy of Performing Arts

Sunday, 8 February 2009 at 4pm
Alexander Theatre, Monash University Clayton campus

Regenerations

Classical Indian Dance performance by Chandrabhanu and others

Details and purchase of ticket:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/monart/whatson/index.html>

3. Seminar

Infant mortality and child care in western China

Dr Chang Feng, Chief Paediatrician and recently retired Head, Urumqi Children's Hospital, China

Wednesday 11 February 2009, 11:00 am
Room S822, Monash Asia Institute
Level 8 South, Building 11 (Menzies), Monash University Clayton

Dr Chang Feng is a visiting scholar to the Monash Asia Institute in February and will be speaking about Infant mortality and child care in western China. The liberalisation of the Chinese economy has given rise to a major debate about China's social welfare, aspects which will be discussed in the seminar.

Enquiries: MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au with "Infant mortality in China seminar" in the subject heading of the email.

4. Seminar

The Bombay massacres of November 2008: What do they mean and what do they tell us about modern India?

Speaker: Prof Marika Vicziany, Monash Asia Institute, Monash University

Thursday 12 February 2008, 5.30 pm
Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA)
124 Jolimont Rd, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Marika Vicziany is Professor of Asian Political Economy at Monash University and the Director of the Monash Asia Institute. She has just returned from 4 weeks of fieldwork in India researching terrorism in South Asia.

5. Seminar

The 'Englishification' of Japan: Successes and Challenges Using English as the Medium of Instruction

Friday 20 February 2009, 2:30-5:30 pm
Japanese Studies Centre, Bldg.54 Monash University, Clayton

One notable feature of government efforts to internationalize Japanese higher education has been the spread of courses using English as the medium of instruction. With the recently announced goal to attract 300,000 international students, more than double the current number, the need for English medium programs can only grow. This panel begins with an overview of internationalization and English teaching in Japan, before focusing on the case of Ritsumeikan University, one of the oldest private universities in Japan.

Following wide-ranging curriculum revisions in the 1990s, Ritsumeikan is today recognised as one of the more internationalized mainstream universities in Japan. Of particular interest is the Inter-Faculty Institute for International Studies, which was established in April 2000, and offers English medium content courses in areas such as law, business, politics, and international citizenship. Drawing on their own teaching methods and activities, the four Ritsumeikan panellists will provide a practical, hands-on classroom-based perspective on the challenges and possibilities of teaching different content-based courses in English to students with mixed English-language abilities. Examples will include the use of active learning, negotiation, role-play, mediation exercises, materials selection, technological support and scaffolding techniques to maintain student motivation and promote student investment and participation in the learning process.

Topics and Speakers in this half-day seminar session include:

Internationalisation and English Education in Japan

Dr Chris Burgess, Tsuda College, Tokyo (Visiting researcher to the Japanese Studies Centre, Monash University)

Ritsumeikan University's Inter-faculty Institute for International Studies:
English-medium Social Science Instruction in a Foreign Language
Environment

Assoc. Prof. Mark Selzer, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto

Methodology and Practice in the Inter-faculty Institute for International Studies

Assoc. Prof. Ian Gibson, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto

Developing Multiple Discourses in Content-medium Language Instruction

Assoc. Prof. Albie Sharpe, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto

The Globalization of Legal Education in Japan: Obstacles and Prospects

Assoc. Prof. Jay Klaphake, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto

*All the presentations above will be conducted in English.

ALL WELCOME

Enquiries: Chris.Burgess@arts.monash.edu.au

6. Seminar

Hosted by Monash Asia Institute with the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics & Asian Business and Economics Research Unit (ABERU), Monash University

Reform Wrongfooted: What the Global Crisis Reveals about China's Patchwork Governance

Prof David Kelly

Tuesday 24 February 2009, 1.00 pm
Venue TBA, Monash University Clayton campus

David Kelly is Professor of Chinese Politics at the China Research Centre, University of Technology Sydney. A resident of Beijing in recent years, he previously carried out research and teaching on Chinese Politics at the ANU, UNSW (ADFA) and, between 2004 and 2008, the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore.

Professor Kelly's work ranges widely across Chinese politics: intellectual history, especially of Marxism and liberalism; political sociology, mainly of intellectuals, urban homeowners and migrant workers; and public policy, focusing on the dilemmas of governance under turbulent current conditions.

[More details](#)

ALL WELCOME

Enquiries: MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au with "China seminar" in the subject heading of the email.

7. Launch of CSEAS 2009 Seminar series

Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Seminar Series, Semester 1, 2009

Ways of Knowing Indonesia: Contending perspectives of Australian scholars' views on Indonesia

Professor Bob Hadiwinata, School of International Relations, University of Parahyangan, Bandung

Launch Event

Thursday 26 February 2009, 11am-12.30pm
Room 363, Level 3, East Wing, Menzies Building, Clayton campus,
[PLEASE NOTE ONE OFF CHANGE OF VENUE]

The scholarly works performed by Australian academics and researchers on Indonesia have been extensive for many years. Prompted by the desire to gain a better understanding of their neighbouring country, Australian scholars

from different backgrounds conducted research on various topics. In the area of social science, which will be the focus of the discussion, first generation scholars such as John Legge, Jamie Mackie and Herbert Feith put more attention on historical and comparative approaches in trying to unravel Indonesian political institutions. The next generation such as Harold Crouch and Richard Robison developed more critical approaches towards Indonesia, which sometimes raised concerns from Indonesia.

For full details, see: <http://www.monash.edu.au/mai/cseas/seminars/index.php>

8. PhD Confirmation Seminar

The place of the Armenian Christians in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mr James Barry, PhD Candidate, Monash Asia Institute

Friday 27 February 2009, 10:00 am
Room S822, Level 8 South, Building 11 (Menzies)
Monash University Clayton campus

Tolerance and acceptance of religious minorities are not usually what people in the English speaking world associate with the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, contrary to this notion, four of Iran's six religious minorities are afforded official recognition by the Islamic Constitution of 1979 and are guaranteed five seats in the Majles (Iranian Parliament).

This research is an analysis of the recognised religious minorities (Jews, Zoroastrians, Assyrian Christians and Armenian Christians) using the largest of these, the Armenian Christians, as a case study. Essentially, the question this study asks is: to what extent is the treatment of the Armenian Christians by the Islamic Republic of Iran favourable *vis-à-vis* the other religious minorities, and why this is the case?

As a confirmation seminar the discussions will cover all the key headings required of the confirmation process.

[More details](#) ...

Enquiries: MAI.Enquiries@adm.monash.edu.au with "Armenian Christians seminar" in the subject heading of the email.

9. Distinguished Visiting Fellow - Professor John Baily at the School of Music - Conservatorium and the Monash Asia Institute

Professor John Baily of the Music Department at Goldsmith College (London University) will be visiting the School of Music - Conservatorium and the Monash Asia Institute from 25 February to 2 May 2009.

Prof Baily is a world authority on the music of Afghanistan and is collaborating with the MAI in the [ROAM Project](#) (Revival of Afghan Music Project). During his stay, Prof Baily will present a public lecture (details to be announced later).

Prof Baily will be accompanied by his wife, Dr Veronica Doubleday, an accomplished musician herself. Dr Doubleday has published a well-received book on music in Herat and will be presenting a concert of traditional Afghan songs (details to be announced later).

For enquiries regarding Prof Baily's and Dr Doubleday's visit, please contact Prof Margaret Kartomi (Margaret.Kartomi@arts.monash.edu.au) or Dr Ahmad Sarmast (Ahmad.Sarmast@adm.monash.edu.au).

10. The International Work-related Education Conference

The International Work-related Education Conference

The role of language and multi-cultural education in educating local communities in global economies: perspectives from Asia

7– 8 April 2009, Hanoi, Vietnam

Hosted by the Institute for the Study and Development of Language and Culture - Linguistics Society of Vietnam & Monash International Strategic Initiatives, Monash University

English, an international language, has played an important role in educating the global workforce. This conference aims to understand the use and ownership of English by different players in the workplace, and the ways in which English has both been a facilitating and colonising means in workplace education at national, regional and global levels. The conference seeks to address ethical concerns of various issues by critical examination.

This conference aims to bring together the voices of researchers, educators, policy makers, international organisations, enterprises and corporations operating in Asia on various aspects of work-related education in educating local communities in global economies.

Enquiries: Dr Phan Le Ha at ha.phan@education.monash.edu.au

11. Arabic Language Classes at Monash Clayton

Beginners level Arabic language classes are now available at Monash University Clayton campus from this semester. This has been made possible through an arrangement with Deakin University. Monash students will enrol in Deakin units through the normal "Complementary unit" enrolment process, and Mr Abdel-Hakeem Kasem, Senior Lecturer in Arabic Studies at

Deakin, will provide weekly classes at Clayton. Monash students wishing to obtain more information should contact the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics at LCL.Enquiries@arts.monash.edu.au or +61 3 990 52223 or +61 3 990 52281

12. MAI Press: New Release

Is Japan really remilitarising? The politics of norm formation and change

Yasuo Takao, 2008, \$36.95. ISBN 978 1 876924 60 7, 220pp, page size A5 210 x 148mm

Is Japan really remilitarising? According to the mass media, Japanese nationalism is on the rise. Tokyo's stance on national security is becoming uncharacteristically assertive. This book explores the prospect of Japan's remilitarisation and challenges the preconceived approaches taken by existing theories to Japan's national security. The book examines Japan's pacifism since the Second World War, developments in Japanese military build-up since the late 1960s, and Japan's responses to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Controversies between realism and social constructivism continue to dominate Japan's national security debates but neither is fully able to make point predictions. This study, an attempt to bridge the gap between these two rigid approaches, helps us understand this vital aspect of Japan's national security.

Purchase books online:

<http://ecommerce.arts.monash.edu.au/categories.asp?clD=48&c=94245>

13. Web of Science database

The Web of Science database has information on more than science and includes useful Asia-related material. Two new features are its indexing of Conference Proceedings and its Chinese Science Citation Database. Also, when you select the "All Databases" tab you will notice that you can select English or Chinese as the default search screen language. Access is here: <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/databases/w.html>

14. Congratulations: Dr. James Gomez

Recent MAI PhD graduate Dr. James Gomez has accepted the offer of Lecturer, School of Humanities, Communications and School Sciences at Monash

University. He will be based at the Caulfield Campus. The MAI would like to congratulate Dr. Gomez on this offer and welcome him back to the Monash family.

He is scheduled to join Monash University in May 2009 after completing his post-doctoral fellowship at Keio University, Japan. Dr Gomez is a specialist on democracy in Asia, especially Singapore.

15. Congratulations: Ms Tara Rajkumar (OAM)

Ms Tara Rajkumar was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for "service to the performing arts as a teacher, choreographer and performer of classical Indian dance". Her award was announced in the 2009 Australia Day Honours list.

The Monash Asia Institute congratulates Ms Tara Rajkumar, an honorary Research Fellow of the MAI, on this achievement. She is the second member of the Monash Asia Institute to receive an Australian award. Prof Mark Wahlqvist, Director of the Asia Pacific Health and Nutrition was honoured in 2000 as Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his service to medicine, human nutrition and public health in the Asia Pacific region.

16. Congratulations

The MAI family extends its welcome to two of its new and youngest members:

Roxanne Juliet Purdey Dobson (Roxie), (8lbs 3oz), "a beautiful little girl with lots of dark hair" born on 16 December 2008 to Dr Jemmy Purdey (CSEAS PostDoctoral Research Fellow) and Thomas Dobson.

Archaan Babar Ray (6lbs) on 31 January 2009 on the auspicious occasion of *Saraswati Puja* - Saraswati being the Goddess of music and learning - to Dr Aneela Barbar (Research Fellow) and Gaurav Ray. Archaan is a beautiful boy with long jet black hair and innate learning.

We extend our congratulations to the proud parents and our best wishes to the new generation.

News from other institutions

17. Parliament of the World's Religions

Melbourne: Making a Difference is a lead-up event for the Melbourne Parliament of the World's Religions, 3-9 December 2009. Celebrating Melbourne's religious and spiritual diversity, it features diverse music, dance, rituals and cuisine, as well as highlighting the issues of reconciliation and climate change. Enjoy a taste of the Parliament experience. Find out more about how you can become actively involved.

Sunday 8 February 4.00 pm - 8.30 pm Melbourne Town Hall

Full registration – \$57.20

Concession / Senior / Student – \$28.60

Group registration (groups of 10 or more) - \$40.00 each (\$20 concession)

Details: <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/>

18. Conferences in East Timor – July 2009

On the weekend between the following two conferences (Saturday and Sunday 4-5 July) a number of Expos will take place on sustainable livelihoods, Timorese history, education, languages, literacy and literature, and other themes, open to all.

Understanding Timor-Leste: A Research Conference, 2-3 July 2009

National University of Timor-Lorosae (UNTL) DILI

This 2-day conference for researchers is organised by the Timor-Leste Studies Association (TLSA). The TLSA is an interdisciplinary, international research network focussed on all aspects of research into East Timorese society, including politics and history, business, communications, health, language and agriculture. The 2009 conference Understanding Timor-Leste: A Research Conference will be co-hosted by the National University of Timor-Lorosae (UNTL), Swinburne University of Technology, Victoria University, and the Technical University of Lisbon.

Enquiries: Dr. Michael Leach, Swinburne University of Technology: mleach@swin.edu.au

Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development Conference 6-7 July 2009

Organised by VUT, the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, UNTL, and the AETA.

This will be a policy-oriented conference focussing on case studies of good practice, with invited speakers and participation by the Timorese government,

the National University, Timorese civil society, Members of Parliament and other interested groups.

Enquiries: Dr Helen Hill helen.hill@vu.edu.au

Nation-Building across Urban and Rural Timor-Leste conference 8-10 July 2009.

Timor-Leste NGO Forum, RMIT University and Australian Volunteers International, with Charles Darwin University and Caritas Australia.

Gender, Justice, Peace and Security, Development and Governance conference will consider how nation-building is being experienced and responded to across urban and rural communities in Timor-Leste. Broadening the discussion beyond that of 'state-building', the conference will consider some of the myriad ways the new republic has been 'built', not only from policy and programmatic initiatives but also from grass roots experiences and perceptions of how Timor-Leste as a nation is seen and understood.

Enquiries: damian.grenfell@rmit.edu.au

19. Website of the month

MAI Press (an imprint of Monash University Press): <http://www.monash.edu.au/mai/press/index.php>

Visit the revamped Monash Asia Institute Press website to [download the complete catalogue of titles](#) or [purchase a selection of titles online](#). Stay informed about new and forthcoming releases by MAI Press through the new MAI Press blog at: <http://maipress.wordpress.com/>

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/>

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