

"Two Accounts of the Nomos-Physis Antithesis in Protagoras' Great Speech"

Andrew Shortridge

I argue that nowhere in the Great Speech of Plato's Protagoras (Prt. 320c8-328d3) does Protagoras provide any clear description of nomos ('law' or 'convention') and physis ('nature') such that these two concepts would be antithetical to one another. I identify two places where such an antithesis might be located. First—as Kerferd (1953; also 1981) and Guthrie (1971) argue—one might think that Protagoras analyses the virtues in a way that makes them wholly conventional, and hence opposed to the savagery and injustice of the natural (dis)order. Second, one might accept that the virtues are natural to some degree, and yet—following McCoy (1998) and Nill (1985)—think that Protagoras argues that virtue is weaker than self-interested prudence. Hence, inasmuch as virtue is cognate with law and prudence with nature, one could infer that law and nature are opposed. I shall argue that Protagoras' account of the virtues makes them the end product of an institutionalised cultivation of natural aptitudes, having roots both in law and nature. I shall also argue that Protagoras' account does leave open the possibility that prudence and virtue could come into conflict. However, I contend that Protagoras thinks instances of conflict would be few and far between, and I claim that this relationship of conflict that can be envisaged does not satisfy criteria that might reasonably be thought to define a relationship of 'antithesis' between law and nature.

"The Sustainability of Transnational Religious Networks"

Robin Smilovitis

The durability of religious connections across national borders has been crucial to the growth and long term endurance of many religious communities. These links have been actively created and maintained by people who move abroad and carry their religious convictions with them. Through migration and diaspora, many groups have contributed to this phenomenon but in particular, missionaries have been active in extending religious connections into other communities. This paper examines the role of Protestant missionaries, many of whom function as transmigrants, moving regularly between two countries to engage in religious activity and extending their lives across two cultures. It will look in particular at the significance of the personal networks that extend across borders and how these networks are able to provide the resources and social capital that sustain mission work. Lastly, it will investigate the contribution of these networks to the building of transnational religious connections.

"Love without Borders: Analysing Interethnic Gay Couples"

Budiadi Sudarto

Interethnic relationship is an area that needs to be analysed further in Sociology. Currently, there are not much academic discussions on interethnic homosexual pairings, with past studies often relied on heterosexual couples in their analysis. Previous studies on same-sex couples also rarely incorporate interethnic couples in their sampling and findings. While there have been some studies conducted on the lived experiences of gay couples, how interethnic gay couples construct their social lives is a topic that requires further discussions. In this paper, I will examine previous studies on the area of interethnic pairings, same-sex relationship, and interethnic gay couples. In particular, I am interested to develop further understanding and discussions on how interethnic gay couples mediate cultural differences in their relationships. Furthermore, I will also examine how these couples construct their social and domestic lives, and different challenges that they encounter in their lives.

"Drawing Room Debates: The Victorian Women's Political Investigation Society"

Claire Tanner

A large number of organizations and societies were established from the 1880s in Victoria that advocated for women's suffrage. The Victorian Women's Political Investigation Society was one of these. Founded in 1904, four years before white women were granted the suffrage in Victoria, the Victorian Women's Political Investigation Society met regularly to address, discuss and inform its members of topical political matters of the day. Their meetings, like many similar groups, were held in the drawing rooms of family homes. The surviving minutes, pamphlets and advertisements of this society exist in a private family collection, providing an invaluable insight into the content and form of their private meetings, where ideas and issues around appropriate roles for men and women were addressed and discussed. Using this valuable primary source material this paper uses the Victorian Women's Political Investigation Society as evidence of the ways in which the public and the global manifested in the private and the local in the fight for state suffrage. I will argue that women's discussions of women's rights in Victoria, whilst mostly occurring behind closed doors in the 'safe' confines of private 'feminised' space, were part of much greater, often global, discussions of Western women and their changing place in a new 'modern' world.

"Stuck in the Middle: The Curious Case of Isaiah Berlin and Aristotle"

Ben Whiteley

This paper will explore the contested thought and method of Sir Isaiah Berlin and will, from a somewhat unlikely direction, make an argument about the way that it should be placed within the broad sweep of the history of ideas. The focus of the paper will be on Berlin's relationship with one of the major figures in this history, Aristotle. The paper will look at two crucial methodological debates to which Berlin contributed, concerning logical positivism on the one hand, and his rejection of monistic modes of thought on the other, and draw some comparisons between debates faced by Aristotle in his lifetime. It will be argued that, in their own way, the two men defend a methodological middle-ground that is pragmatic, conservative, and urges intellectual modesty.

"Multiculturalism in Rural Victoria: Cobram and its New Muslim Migrant Community"

Rachel Woodlock

Cobram is a rural township located on the northern Victorian border that has seen a recent influx of Muslim migrants, and current estimates place the minority population at just under ten percent of Cobram's four and a half thousand residents. Cobram has a history of multiculturalism, with Indigenous, North-Western European and Southern European populations maintaining distinct cultural identities. There have been a number of efforts to promote multiculturalism in the region however there are also competing assimilationist trends in the discourse surrounding the new settlers. This paper will discuss the successes and challenges of the social integration of Muslim migrants based on data collected from interviews conducted during April 2006 with both Muslim and non-Muslim residents in Cobram, Victoria.

For more information go to www.arts.monash.edu.au/psi/postgraduate/symposium/index.html

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5 minutes presentation

"Framing terrorism in Southern Thailand"
Virginie Andre

"Ethnic Lobbies"
Mihal Greener

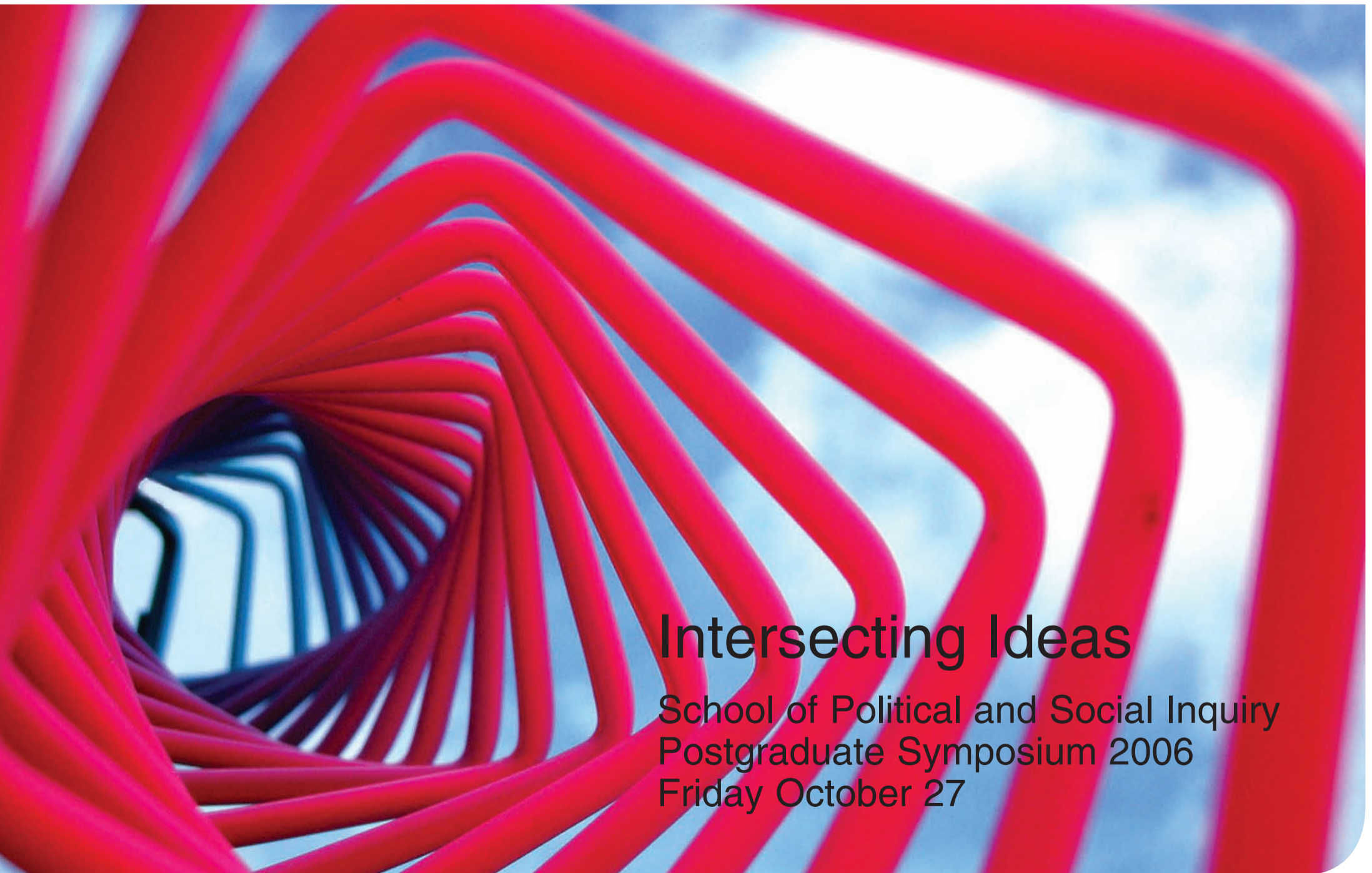
"Multifaith Peacebuilding: Shared Security in Diverse Societies"
Anna Halafoff

"The Embodiment of Private and Public Self in the Autobiographies of Indonesian Female Celebrities in the Period of 2000 – 2006."
Aquarini P. Prabasmoro

"The Construction and Expression of Political Identity in Australian Born Muslim Youth Aged 18-29 in Melbourne, Australia."
Joshua Roose

"The Roles of NGOs in Promoting the Rights of Women Migrant Workers: Activisms of Indonesian Women and Migrant Labour NGOs"
Sylvia Yazid

Timetable			
8.30 - 9.00	Registration (and payment for Symposium Dinner)		
9.00 - 9.30	Welcoming Address		
	Dr. Michael Janover - 'Welcome' Jennifer Mitchell - 'Travelling on False Papers? Strategies for when you feel like an academic fraud'		
	Room SG01	Room SG02	Room SG03
9.30 - 11.00	Terrorism Zachary James Russell Annie Pettitt Damien Cheong Virginie Andre	Migrant Experience Liudmila Kirpitchenko Rachel Woodlock Petra Andits Sylvia Yazid	Religion and Identity Kylie Baxter Houri Jahanshahrad Ibrahim Abraham Joshua Roose
11.00 - 11.20	Morning tea (Manton Foyer)		
1.20 - 12.25	Subjectivity and Body Kate Seear Duane Duncan Aquarini P. Prabasmoro	Religious Community Robin Smilovitis Bob Dixon Anna Halafoff	Political Philosophy Michael McGann Andrew Shortridge Mihal Greener
12.30 - 1.30	Lunch		
1.30 - 2.45	Australian Politics Zareh Ghazarian Claire Tanner Genevieve Heard	Nationalism Tania Raffass Ela Ogru Anna Lumban Gaol	Political Theory Ben Whiteley Marina Cominos Silvio Bonazinga
2.45 - 3.00	Afternoon Tea (Manton foyer)		
3.00 - 4.15	Work and Education Daniel Edwards Amy Bohren Kylie Moppert	Crossing Borders Sanja Milivojevic Marie Segrave Budiadi Sudarto	
4.15 - 4.30	Closing Address		



Intersecting Ideas

School of Political and Social Inquiry
 Postgraduate Symposium 2006
 Friday October 27

Abstracts

15 minute presentations

“Punk Pulpit: Religion, Punk Rock and Counter-(sub)cultures”

Ibrahim Abraham

Ever since the Sex Pistols declared ‘I am an Anti-Christ’, punk rock has deliberately positioned itself as anti-religious and especially anti-Christian. Despite this, punk bands have emerged from virtually all religious traditions including Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Krishna Consciousness. Utilising audio clips and visual imagery, and employing theories of subculture, post-subculture, contemporary youth studies and sociology of religion, this paper explores the curious rise of confessional punk and its place within various subcultures: religious youth subcultures, punk subcultures and the controversial ‘straightedge’ and ‘hardline’ movements. Asking whether religious punk rock represents an emerging counter counter-(sub)culture, and significantly alters the notion of what it means to be a ‘punk’, this paper suggests that contemporary youth religion may be best understood in terms of subculture.

“The anxiety of depopulation among Hungarians in Australia”

Petra Andits

In Raymond Williams’s terms, the Hungarian community in Australia is residual. The vast majority of Hungarians in Australian show high ethnocultural retention rates, they become culturally, structurally and maritally assimilated, to use Milton Gordon’s terminology. With the passing generations, people of Hungarian descent participate less in ethnic community life. The general decline in participation and the lack of interest of the young Hungarians to be included in community institutions causes intense anxiety among the first generation Hungarian immigrants. Being on the threshold of disappearance is a powerful discourse in 21st-century in the Hungarian community in Australia. I propose to outline the discourses, tensions and difficulties that Hungarians face regarding the fear of disappearance, character and maintenance of community organisations and collective definitions of Hungarianness.

“Contemporary Discourses in British Islam”

Kylie Baxter

In recent years British Muslims have been propelled into the international media spotlight. Since the terrorist attacks of July 7, 2005 and the investigation into the alleged plot to destroy civilian airliners in August 2006, British Islam has been subjected to intense scrutiny. This paper will explore two important discourses in the British Muslim community: Euro-Islam and Islamism. Both trends seek to influence the ways in which Muslims living in the United Kingdom engage with their faith and the broader British community. Through an exploration of the major proponents of each discourse this paper will provide an overview of two vital trends in the politics of British Islam.

“Influences on Arts employability: a multi-factorial approach”

Amy Bohren

The Australian higher education system is currently undergoing numerous changes, including a renewed focus on learning and teaching; a review of the methods for measuring research output; the introduction of workplace changes; and the demise of compulsory student unionism. Each of these is likely to impact upon the employability of students and graduates. In addition, much research has focussed on describing graduate attributes, student satisfaction with teaching and university services, and the transferable skill needs of employers; however, little attention has been given to the case of the liberal Arts, with a dearth of interest most particularly in the areas of student, graduate and academic perspectives on employability. This study takes both a theoretical and empirical approach, examining the impact of various influences on the employability of students and graduates of Arts degrees in Australia. It is expected that an institutional system which takes a holistic approach, with well-defined relationships between students, programmes, schools, faculties, support services and institutional governance, is likely to result in greater student satisfaction with the university experience, which in turn should result in increased employability. Such an ideal, however, would require a collaborative approach, with the renegotiation of boundaries between higher education and the professional sphere; between academic, administrative and support services within universities; between disciplinary and transferable skill teaching; and finally, between research, policy and practice.

“Critical Theory: Attempt at a Criticism”

Silvio Bonazinga

This paper intends to explore and elaborate a criticism of Critical Theory from an Oakeshottian perspective. It will focus mainly on their differing accounts of modern Rationalism, including its character and emergence, and the effect of Oakeshott’s alternative account on critical theory.

“Suicide Bombing and the Concept of Martyrdom in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict”

Damien Cheong

This presentation examines the phenomenon of suicide bombing in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While many have argued that religious objectives constitute the driving force behind such attacks, it is argued that in the Palestinian case, suicide bombings form part of the offensive tactics employed by militants in their armed struggle against occupation. Religion plays an important secondary role, particularly in the bomber’s self-motivation.

“Nietzsche’s Anti-Politicism and Human Transfiguration”

Marina Cominos

Nietzsche’s claim to be “the last anti-political German” has animated debate among Anglo-American commentators over Nietzsche’s relation to politics. It has been used to defend interpretations of his work as apolitical and anti-political. The latter reading usually focuses on Nietzsche’s opposition to the political manifestations of the modern secular state, to what he calls ‘petty’ party politics and nationalism. This paper examines Nietzsche’s anti-politicism in its textual context. It emerges that Nietzsche is less an unequivocal opponent of the state, than a defender and promoter of culture, seen to enlarge the possibilities of genuinely human being. Nietzsche’s primary target is the politicization of culture, which demeans the individual and limits the potential of human being to reach beyond its current incarnations. Nietzsche’s anti-politicism engages the arguably ‘higher order’ political question of the relationship between the thinker and humankind as a whole.

“Religious Goods and Social Capital: A Study of Community in Australian Catholic Parishes”

Bob Dixon

The idea of community is central to the Catholic parish. The parish is actually defined in terms of a community in Church law, and contemporary church planning documents in Australia emphasise the communal aspects of parish life. This sociological investigation of the communal nature of Catholic parishes uses the concept of social capital, a type of capital that facilitates individuals working together for mutual benefit. According to the literature, local churches, both Catholic and Protestant, are widely regarded as being generators and repositories of social capital. Social capital is a highly abstract concept which needs to be broken down into its different components. In this study, some of those different components which are created in a Catholic parish will be identified and measured using Stolz’s typology of religious goods, a theoretical framework which attempts to integrate Weberian and rational choice concepts of religious goods, religious markets and religious authority structures.

“Embodying Gay Male Identity: Body image, visibility and identity amongst gay men”

Duane Duncan

Gay men are frequently faced with the cultural stereotype that they are physically fit, well groomed, and better-looking than heterosexual men. Gay communities also tend to privilege a muscular, hairless, fat-free, Caucasian standard of male beauty. Unsurprisingly, psychological and health science studies have identified a higher incidence of body dissatisfaction and disordered eating behaviours among gay men than heterosexual men, and have tended to represent gay men as vulnerable to body dissatisfaction due to the demands of an appearance-obsessed gay male

culture, and homophobia. However, very little research on gay men’s body image has considered the political, cultural and social embodiment of historical and contemporary understandings and discourses of homosexuality by gay-identified men. From in-depth interviews with Melbourne gay men reflecting on their bodies, and the meanings attached to ‘being’ and ‘looking’ gay, this paper provides critical insight into the connection between body dissatisfaction and constructions of gay male identity

“Rising competition for university in Melbourne and its impact on disadvantaged students”

Daniel Edwards

There are a wide variety of universities, university campuses and courses in Melbourne available to those interested in pursuing a higher education degree. Applications for university are generally accepted on the basis of previous educational attainment. In the case of the majority of university applicants – current year 12 graduates – this is based on their year 12 final mark known as the ENTER. The allocation of the ENTER across all year 12 students at the end of year 12 essentially occurs on the assumption that all students compete on a level playing field. However, this is far from the reality of the education system in Victoria.

This paper analyses university application data for Victorian year 12 completers between 2000 and 2003. It shows that the competition for entrance to university in Melbourne increased during this period and that this increase affected some groups of students more than others. This paper investigates the impact of this increased competition on two groups of students, those in the government school sector, and those in the outer suburban areas of the city.

“The New Force in Australian Politics? The Case of Family First”

Zareh Ghazarian

Amongst the plethora of parties and candidates that contested the 2004 Australian general election, the Family First party received much interest and attention. With its alleged connections with the Assemblies of God congregations in Adelaide, Family First raised the issue of the impact of religious politics upon the Australian debate. Family First’s success in winning a Senate seat crowned the party’s remarkable emergence. This paper argues that Family First’s success was due less to the attraction of the party’s conservative agenda to the electorate. Rather, the party’s success was due to some advantageous circumstances and preference deals with other parties. In speculating on the future of Family First, the paper argues that the party is dependent on the Group Ticket Voting decisions of major parties rather than on any mass acceptance of the party’s agenda.

“Conservative Voices in the Australian Fertility Debate”

Genevieve Heard

In academic circles, the dominant explanation for sustained low fertility in Australia has been provided by gender equity theory. The policy direction encouraged by this perspective is toward greater support for women in their attempts to both pursue a career and achieve their desired family size. The Howard Government has adopted the rhetoric about ‘work/ family balance’, but has avoided its policy implications (rejecting, for example, a national system of paid maternity leave). Instead, the Government’s pronatalism has been expressed in the introduction of cash payments such as the failed Baby Bonus, and its replacement, the maternity payment. In order to explain the policy directions adopted, this paper examines the role of conservative influences, both within and without Government, in the Australian fertility debate.

“Islamic feminism, Muslim feminism and Secular feminism in Iran: A Comparative Study”

Houri Jahanshahrad

In Iran the birth of Iranian women’s movement came after the Constitutional Revolution, 1905-1911, which paved the way for women’s entry into politics and society. After the Islamic revolution in 1979, another kind of feminism appeared in Iran entitled Islamic feminism. Islamic feminism not only challenged the hegemony of orthodox interpretations of shari’a, but also questioned the very legitimacy of the laws enforced by the Islamic Republic. In present-day Iran there are three kinds of feminism, they consist of: Islamist feminists, Muslim feminists, and secular feminists. While they all share a common concern with the empowerment of their gender they apply different methods and work within diverse contexts. Islamic feminists call for reinterpreting Islamic resources from a women’s view. Secular feminism does not use the language of Islam since they argue that religion is principally a male project and oppose the more recent phenomenon of political Islam. Muslim feminists are those who use the discourse of Islam as one among several discourses in gender analysis. This article examines and compares the thoughts, manners, and the goals of various feminisms in Iran.

“Cultural Integration of Immigrants”

Liudmila Kirpitchenko

This paper examines the role of culture in immigrants’ integration and outlines cultural aspects of integration processes. It briefly reviews research on integration and stresses a shift in analysis from the traditional unilateralist approach to a mutual and reciprocal mode of accommodation of differences. While economic, political and civic aspects of integration have received attention in scholarly literature, the cultural dimensions of the integration process remain largely overlooked and under-researched. This paper aims to fill this research gap. I define culture in the broad anthropological tradition as a way of life and foreground objectified and collective aspects of culture using Pierre Bourdieu’s notions of cultural capital and habitus. The paper traces the varied treatment of cultural differences throughout history looking at diverse culturological traditions: evolutionism, organicism, relativism, culturalism, and postmodernist theories. It discusses the role of culture in maintaining and reproducing social inequality and suggests a shift to postmodern ideas of cultural interconnectedness, interdependence and codependence of individuals, and the equality of cultural patterns they represent. In conclusion, I argue that cultural dimensions need to be studied in-depth alongside other more researched aspects of integration, and a theory of cultural integration of immigrants needs to be addressed and developed as a separate field of study.

“Negotiating Recognition and Identity Amongst West Papuan Elites Post-1998: To Return As a Nation and Be Heard”

Anna Lumban Gaol

In 1999 the West Papuans – represented by the Team of 100, went to see the President of Indonesia and told him in person that the people of West Papua wished to be independent from Indonesia. The specific term used in the meeting was recognition of West Papuans’ once gained independence in 1961. This paper examines how since the visit, West Papuans’ pro-independence elites were negotiating on the employment of the terms ‘recognition’ – which has been made central to the cause of their independence movement and the reconstruction of West Papuan identity. The movement can be found in two layers; the struggle for recognition of itself as a distinct nation in Indonesia nations-state and the struggle within West Papuan society for recognition as legitimate representatives of West Papuan interests. The thesis sees West Papua as a nation without its own state utilising cultural resistance and diplomatic methods of struggle to achieve greater degree of political and cultural recognition along with political and economic autonomy. In the process, it resulted in various processes of elites formations and the reconstruction of West Papuan identity.

“Liberalism and the Rights of Minority Cultures”

Michael McGann

Much of the last two decades of political theory has been taken up with the politics of recognition and identity. Communitarian and postmodern theorists have deconstructed the ideal of the universal subject at the heart of liberal social contract theory and focused on the ways in which individuals’ identities have been coerced by state-building projects. My thesis examines two attempts by self-confessed liberals to accommodate difference and identity within a liberal framework - Will Kymlicka’s idea of multicultural citizenship and Chandran Kukathas’s theory of the Liberal Archipelago. Respectively, these theories appeal to different values at the heart of liberal theory - individual autonomy (Kymlicka) and tolerance (Kukathas). However, both attempts fail to adequately accommodate the claims of cultural

minorities within a liberal framework. Kymlicka’s analysis of the relationship between the autonomy of individuals and their cultural membership is incoherent and overly deterministic while Kukathas’s conception of tolerance is untenable. In response, I attempt to offer an alternative liberal framework within which to conceptualise the rights of minority cultures, one which places the value of political self-determination at the centre and which focuses on the ways in which individual self-determination is bound up with the notion of a political community that individuals can identify with as their own. Minority rights, on this account, are a concern of the democratic legitimacy of the political community rather than an absolute individual right to the conditions of one’s identity.

“Victims’ and victims: Myths and Stereotypes About Women Trafficked for Sex in Serbia and Australia”

Sanja Milivojevic

This paper will address predominant myths and stereotypes about women trafficked for sex identified in Serbian and Australian society. It will also explore how these stereotypes transfer to the criminal justice system and what implications they might have to the status of women. Finally, this chapter will suggest the importance of reconstructing current responses to sex trafficking in both Serbia and Australia, and why it is essential to listen to women’s voices.

“Women Entrepreneurs; how do they relate with stakeholders when the power balance is not in their favour?”

Kylie Moppert

Essentially all business is relationships; employees, customers, suppliers, owners, financiers, service providers and regulators. The success or otherwise of a business is a reflection of the quality and exchange of all these stakeholder relationships. Women often relate more emotionally and compassionately. There are recognized benefits which result from this management style with staff and customers, indeed much management theory advocates a nurturing and empowering approach. But when there is a power disadvantage, either perceived or actual, another approach is required. My research questions women entrepreneur’s approaches to and experience of stakeholder relationships where there might exist a power disadvantage.

“The Kurdish Nationalist Movement in Turkey”

Ela Ogru

After almost a century of socio-economic and political marginalisation in Turkey, Kurdish national identity and the national movement entered the mainstream political arena during the late 1990s. Due to the effects and pressures of ‘Europeanization’, the Turkish state has had to re-evaluate and subsequently alter its policies regarding the existence and cultural and political rights of its Kurdish minority. For the first time in the Kemalist Republic’s history, pro-Kurdish political parties have been allowed to participate in federal politics. This research project examines the two most popular political parties for Kurds during the 1990s; HADEP and the Islamist organisation Refah Party. The way in which these groups represent Kurdish national identity, and the challenges they pose to the Kemalist-Turkish Republic, are analysed.”

“Finding the Right Balance: Developing a Human Rights Impact Assessment Tool for Counter-Terrorism Policing”

Annie Pettitt

Since September 11 there has been a growing tension between the protection of human rights while countering terrorism and national security imperatives. There have been different approaches to the issue of how to balance national security and counter-terrorism strategies with adequate human rights protections. Human rights advocates have generally maintained the need to balance the protection of human rights with countering terrorism. Likewise, governments have argued that it is necessary to find the right ‘balance’ between guaranteeing public safety and respecting the rights of individuals suspected of being involved in, or having knowledge of, terrorist activities. But how do we know that we have got the balance right? How is the right ‘balance’ to be determined, by what criteria and by whom?

This paper explores whether a shift away from a simple balance between rights and national security, and towards a focus on the existing in-built processes of the human rights framework can provide a valuable check on state power in the context of counter-terrorism law enforcement.

“The Ethics of Nationalism”

Tania Raffass

Recent justifications of nationalism have been constructed mainly on two foundations. One line of defence elaborates the crucial significance of cultural membership for the actualisation of individual autonomy, and therefore a need for ‘ethnocultural justice’. The other proceeds from scepticism about moral universalism and related civic theories of political integration. According to this body of literature, as a consequence of the intrinsic partiality of morality, a special sense of bonding, not reducible to consent, is indispensable for uniting populations into well functioning polities. The paper provides a critical examination of these arguments.

“Reacting to Terrorism: Comparing the Influence of the Perceived Threat of International Terrorism on Policy Attitudes Before and After September 11, 2001”

Zachary James Russell

This paper examines how the threat associated to international terrorism influences American opinion leaders’ policy attitudes related to the ‘War on Terror’. Focus was placed on how the perceived international terrorist threat differs in its influence on military policies and actions, as well as support for the spread of democratization, before and after the events of September 11, 2001. The goal was to identify the impact of the 9/11 attacks on these relationships. Results show that an increased threat associated to international terrorism predicted increased support for military policies and actions, as well as support for democratization, in both 1998 and 2002. Moreover, the positive relationship between an increased threat associated to international terrorism and support for military policies and actions was significantly stronger in the post-9/11 era. Results from this project go a long way in explaining the military response to the 9/11 attacks conducted under the ‘War on Terror’.

“If all the ticks are in all the right boxes...: An analysis of the interface between the ‘subjective’ experience of pain amongst women with endometriosis and the ‘objective’ biomedical model of diagnosis.”

Kate Seear

In this paper I examine aspects of the interface between two ways of seeing/living the body: the ‘clinical gaze’ and the patients’ subjective (corporeal) experience. Through analysis of interviews with women suffering from a chronic gynaecological condition called endometriosis – the main symptom of which is pain – I explore women’s complex relationships with their bodies. Whilst accepting what their bodies ‘tell them’, women also come to doubt what their bodies ‘tell them’ in deference to the ostensibly objective biomedical framework. The clinical process ultimately produces an alienated subject; a woman who is disconnected from her corporeality and doubtful of the authenticity of her ‘subjective’ experience. I offer some sociocultural explanations for women’s adoption of the ‘clinical gaze’ and some of the consequences of this for women’s subjectivities.

“Responding to Trafficking: Examining the Dominant Frameworks”

Marie Segrave

In late 2003 the Australian government introduced a ‘comprehensive’ policy response to address the trafficking of persons into Australia. Primarily this response is focused on the identification of victims, the prosecution of traffickers and the repatriation of victims to their country of origin. As such this is a policy response firmly located within a law and order framework. To date there has been limited critical engagement with the policy response, its implementation or the outcomes to date. This paper will focus on the key elements of the policy response drawing on doctoral research undertaken in Australia and Thailand in 2005. Rather than assessing the effectiveness of the policy response, this paper will examine the complex and contradictory ways in which the response is maintained within the existing framework and the implications arising from this.