



Centre *for* Dialogue



La Trobe University Centre for Dialogue

2010 Annual Report

Centre for Dialogue
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Centre Overview

The Centre for Dialogue was established by La Trobe University's Academic Board in September 2005 and formally launched on 15th August 2006 at the National Gallery of Victoria. The Centre is located within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, but has a strong cross-faculty profile and inter-disciplinary methodology.

The establishment of the Centre is, in part, a response to several features of the national and international landscape: a rapidly evolving and globalising - yet turbulent and deeply divided - world; the rise of religion, ethnicity and culture as decisive influences in social and political life both within and across borders; the changing face of human governance evident in the proliferation of regional and global institutional initiatives; the rise of non-Western centres of power and influence; and Australia's unique position as it seeks to reconcile the constraints of its history and geography.

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. 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. The Centre for Dialogue 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 Mission Statement, the Centre set itself three main objectives to be completed within its first five years of operation:

1. To build on La Trobe University's strengths, especially in the inter-disciplinary study of international relations, religion, culture and civilisation, as well as development and conflict resolution (including human rights);
2. To achieve the highest international standards in research and establish a productive network of national and international research and educational partnerships; and,
3. To maintain international best practice in terms of the Centre's organisation, and in particular combine effective research, education, policy development and community engagement.

The Centre's program focuses on two key areas of pure and applied research:

1. Dialogue across religious/cultural/political boundaries within Australia and internationally; and,
2. Dialogue across the complex and often contentious issues of globalisation, and their implications for national and international governance, not least in the area of climate change.

Over the next five years, the Centre for Dialogue will continue to develop cutting edge research projects, maintain a solid range of publications, and build strong research partnerships with leading international research and educational institutions. It will also seek to play a leadership role in the establishment of a multi-nodal Global Network for Dialogue; develop collaborative projects with the UN, UNESCO, the EU, ASEM, other international agencies and governments that have a strong commitment to the dialogue of cultures, faiths and civilisations; mount a wide range of consultations, briefings, educational courses and other services responding to the needs of educational institutions, religious and other community organisations, media, the professions, industry, philanthropy and government (local, state and national) organisations; and develop a Resource Centre, which can service academic research, community-based projects, and interested members of the public.

Director's Report

In 2010 the Centre for Dialogue embarked on its first year in what is to be a three-year period of expansion. Much effort went into developing the Centre's already strong research profile, including the quality and volume of its publications, as well as the number and effectiveness of its collaborative arrangements with other institutions, both in Australia and internationally.

A second priority, arising from the first, has been to widen and deepen the Centre's community education and training programs, as well as contributions to policy development across a range of issues of national and international importance, in particular in relation to multiculturalism, security policy and climate change.

The third priority has been to put the Centre's program on a sounder financial footing, by developing a carefully researched five-year funding strategy.

Key themes underlying most of the research and educational activities of the Centre during 2010 were:

- Dialogue of cultures and civilisations: theoretical and historical perspectives;
- Conflict and dialogue in the Middle East;
- Conflict, religion and culture: implications for Southeast Asia and Australia;
- Diaspora whose homelands are in conflict;
- Interfaith and intercultural dialogue in local and regional settings; and,
- Cyprus: realities of conflict and prospects for dialogue.

The following highlights are worth noting:

- Three book manuscripts were completed, to be published by Palgrave Macmillan as edited volumes in 2011:
 - *The Secret History of Democracy*
 - *Religion and Ethics in a Globalizing World: Conflict, Dialogue and Transformation*
 - *Energy Security in the Era of Climate Change: The Asia-Pacific Experience*
- Stanford University Press has expressed strong interest in publishing a book to be co-authored by Luca Anceschi, Joseph A Camilleri, Ben Isakhan and Michális S Michael on *The Politics of Withdrawal; Lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan*;

- The ARC Linkage-funded four-year project *Developing the Infrastructure for Locally Based Inter-Faith and Inter-Cultural Dialogue* has been completed in collaboration with five local councils and eight community partner organisations;
- Substantial progress was made in preparing the ground for both Australia-China and Australia-Indonesia dialogues;
- The journal *Global Change, Peace & Security* has had its most successful year thus far, with a substantial increase in its circulation and the significant internationalisation of its editorial committee;
- The Young Muslims Leadership Training Programme, funded by the Victorian Government, entered its fourth year. With funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the programme was able to include the participation of eight young Muslims from Southeast Asia. The Victorian government continued its generous support of the programme;
- The Centre completed the Middle East Community Dialogue, the second of its two intensive one-year dialogues, involving key members of the Jewish, Israeli, Palestinian and Arab communities resident in Melbourne; and,
- Other important landmarks included: completion of a scoping study on Australia-Malaysia Linkages; the international consultation on *Faith, Shared Wisdom and International Law* held in Kuala Lumpur; and the stimulating presence of several visiting fellows, including Prof Cristina Montiel (Ateneo de Manila University).

I take this opportunity to thank all colleagues at the Centre for their skills, effort and dedication. I wish to acknowledge the invaluable contribution made by Dr Luca Anceschi, who has just taken up a continuing position with the Politics Program in the School of Social Sciences. Over the last four years Dr Anceschi has overseen four projects, played a key role in the organisation of several conferences and workshops, published extensively and taken primary responsibility for a number of collaborative publications. We wish him well in his new position and look forward to his continuing association with the Centre. Though he was with us barely nine months, Dr Ben Isakhan substantially strengthened the Centre's expertise and profile and contributed

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generously to a number of activities, notably the Centre's seminar series.

The Centre is also deeply indebted to the sustained and multi-faceted contribution of its deputy director, Dr Michális S Michael, and to the energy and flair with which Mr Larry Marshall has approached a number of educational and community engagement projects. A special word of appreciation must go to those who have contributed to the administrative arrangements of the Centre, in particular Christine Siokou and Shelley Baulch.

The members of the Board, and especially its Chairman, the Hon Steve Bracks, have continued to play a significant role, providing the Centre with invaluable 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, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the William Buckland Foundation. Finally, mention must be made of indispensable support provided by the University as a whole, in particular the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Social Sciences, Prof Tim Brown, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Prof John Rosenberg, Deputy Vice Chancellor (International and Future Students) as well as the strong, persistent and public support of the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Johnson and the Chancellor, Mrs Sylvia Walton.



Joseph A. Camilleri
Director, Centre for Dialogue
Professor of International Relations
15 February 2011

Projects

International Conflict, Religion and Culture: Implications for Southeast Asia and Australia

This ARC Discovery based project examined the implications of September 11 2001 and the related tensions involving ethnically and religiously diverse countries in Southeast Asia and Australia. Particular attention focused on how key sectors – namely, government, civil society actors, and the media – in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Australia have responded to tensions that have emerged in recent years. The study then assessed the nature and adequacy of these responses. Drawing on insights from civil society actors, as well as from international relations research and intercultural-interfaith education studies, the research team went on to explore the feasibility of developing initiatives and projects that could advance intercultural-interfaith dialogue in the region in the post-September 11 context.

Commencing in 2007 this four-year project was led by Prof Camilleri in collaboration with three partner institutions: PPIM - Centre for the Study of Islam, Universitas Islam Negari Syarif Hidayatullah, (Jakarta, Indonesia); Ateneo de Manila University (Manila, the Philippines); and Centre for Policy Research and International Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia and the International Movement for a JUST World (Malaysia).

The fourth and final stage of the project is the forthcoming workshop to be held at La Trobe University in February 2011, focusing on two closely interrelated questions: the nature of the challenge posed in each of the four countries for governance (not just at the national level) by identity politics generally, and religious and ethnic pluralism in particular. The focus will be on the capacity of governments, civil society, and the media to interpret the nature of these challenges and to devise effective responses.

So far the project has resulted in the publication of one edited book, seven book chapters, one journal article, two working papers and two discussion papers. The February 2011 workshop will result in a special issue of an A-ranked journal, to appear in 2012.

Dialogue Diaspora

Led by Dr Michael and Professor Camilleri, this ongoing umbrella programme inducts a number of specific case-study projects that explore the prospects for dialogue between various diasporic communities resident in Australia affected by conflicts in their original homelands. As a whole, the programme seeks to identify conditions that are conducive to the development of dialogical skills, attitudes and relationships, as well as the conditions that impede such prospects. Since its inception, the programme has included projects involving the Sri Lankan, Cypriot, Jewish/Israeli and Arab/Palestinian communities (see below), primarily in Victoria and to a lesser extent in New South Wales. It is currently exploring the possibilities of mounting similar dialogues involving the Somali, Iraqi and Turkish diasporas.

Coordinators of the above dialogues are currently writing up their findings analysis with a publication view for 2011. As an offshoot, Dr Michael has also conducted extensive fieldwork with the Cypriot communities in Cyprus by bringing together Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot academics, scholars and intellectuals in an effort to enhance the communicative and problem-solving imperative of this particular protracted conflict (see Cyprus Academic Dialogue below).



Middle Eastern Communities Dialogue

After 40 hours of intensive dialogue over eight sessions, the Middle Eastern Communities Dialogue, was finally completed in March 2010.

Funded by the William Buckland Foundation and supported by the Victorian Multicultural Commission, participants in the dialogues were encouraged to share their personal experiences and reflect on how the conflicts in the Middle East impacted on relations within and between the relevant diasporic communities in Australia. Though the dialogue focused primarily on the conflict between Israel and Palestinians, it had

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to consider a number of neighbouring conflicts, including Lebanon and Iran and wider issues which had to do with relations between the West and the Muslim world.

As the dialogues progressed, participants were asked to reflect on the key obstacles and what steps might improve relations between and within the Jewish, Israeli, Palestinian and Arab communities living in Australia. The final sessions canvassed and refined a list of joint initiatives that participants felt confident to take forward to their respective communities.

The project also generated new insights into the application of the method, technique and theory of dialogue; and has shed valuable information on the Middle Eastern communities, as well as identifying, with greater clarity, strategies and practical measures that can help to mitigate tensions between ethnic communities in Australia whose homelands are in conflict.

With the completion of the project, the Centre is in the process of disseminating its results in various ways and through various means and formats.

The Centre's facilitating team, Dr Michael, Prof Camilleri and Nicholas Taylor, would like to thank all those who participated in and supported the project.



Participants in the Middle East Communities Dialogue.

Leadership Training Programme for Young Muslims

The Leadership Training Programme Young Muslims is a unique course, which has been conducted since 2007. It aims to support leaders who can speak clearly and confidently about the various issues which confront people of Islamic faith in Australia and South-East Asia, and who can actively participate in shaping our future, both locally and regionally.

The programme has benefited from generous funding from the State Government of Victoria.

This fourth year of operation has seen the highly successful programme expanded to include eight young Muslims from South-East Asia. This has been made possible with the support of the Commonwealth of Australia through the Australian Thailand Institute, the Australian Malaysia Institute and the Regional Communities Outreach Programme of DFAT. Two delegates from Indonesia, two more from Malaysia and two from both southern Thailand and the southern Philippines were able to join sixteen local participants on this journey of intellectual growth, community networking and personal empowerment.



Graduates of the 2010 programme with Course Coordinator, Larry Marshall (centre).

This programme is coordinated by the Centre in collaboration with the Islamic Council of Victoria and with the support of the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement, Australian Catholic University.

The programme has now built a core of over 90 young Muslims (22 in South-East Asia) who are leaders in their own communities and who have grown in self-confidence, are psychologically stronger, with experience in debate and dialogue, and with a growing network of contacts that reach across Australia's three major cities and into the region.



Participants enjoying robust debate with a panel of journalists at the ABC in Sydney.

This is a solid foundation on which to build in the coming years. The Centre has begun to develop the International Young Muslim Intellectual Network (IYMIN) which will carefully maintain and build on this exciting association of young Muslim leaders working for peace across the region.

We look forward to continuing support from the Community Outreach Program of DFAT in these endeavours.

Projects

Building the Infrastructure for a Locally Based Interfaith / Intercultural Network in the Northern Region of Melbourne

This three-year ARC linkage project partnered the Centre with five adjacent municipal councils (Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland and Whittlesea) and eight religious and ethnic community organisations: Australian Multicultural Foundation, Buddhist Council of Victoria, Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, Islamic Council of Victoria, Jewish Council of Victoria, Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre, Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania - Commission for Mission, Victorian Council of Churches.

Commenced in 2007, the project explored the application of interfaith and intercultural dialogue to the needs and circumstances of Melbourne's Northern suburbs, a region of considerable ethnic and religious diversity. Over the past three years, the project has among other things:

- Surveyed initiatives in Australia in recent years in the area of interfaith/intercultural dialogue, and identified key strengths and weaknesses;
- Undertaken a concise review of international discourse and practice in interfaith/intercultural dialogue (in selected Western countries with substantial religious minorities), highlighting objectives, strategies and outcomes that had relevance for Australia;
- Designed a pilot scheme in the northern region of Melbourne with the support of the Victorian Government and the active involvement of above municipalities and other partner organisations; and,
- Monitored and evaluated the pilot scheme, provided partner organisations with the necessary advice, and formulated findings and recommendations for the future development of the method, practice and pedagogy of dialogue in the northern region of Melbourne (and possible applications to other parts of Victoria and beyond).



Prof Camilleri with members of the Interim Steering Committee.

Led by Prof Joseph Camilleri (CI) and Dr Michális S. Michael, and with the assistance of Ms Janelle Cairns, Ms Steph Matti and Ms Charlotte Setijadi-Dunn (at different stages of the project), the NIIN project comprised of four phases:

1. Research and Community Consultation (2007-2008)
2. Design of Network (2008)
3. Monitoring of pilot network (2009-2010)
4. Evaluation and Recommendation (2010)

After the conclusion of the first three phases of the project, the first Northern Interfaith/Intercultural Network (NIIN) Interim Steering Committee meeting was held in September 2009, with great success. This initial steering committee meeting was followed by subsequent monthly meetings where committed committee members discussed organisational matters (such as NIIN's terms of reference, schedule and administrative design for the future, etc.) and planned community-based working groups and activities. In the 2009-2010 period, NIIN and the Centre have successfully co-organised a number of events, including a community discussion panel with Mr Uilil Abshar-Abdalla, a prominent liberal Muslim scholar from Indonesia, and a series of workshops on 'Building Bridges Across Faiths and Cultures in Melbourne's Northern Region'.



NIIN Interim Steering Committee meeting.

In March 2011, NIIN will officially become an independent community-based interfaith network although the Centre will continue to provide on-going support whenever needed. This occasion will be marked and celebrated with a launch event that will be attended by relevant government, community, and religious leaders from the Northern region. After its launch, it is intended that NIIN will be run as a democratic self-sustaining organisation that elects its own executive committee members annually and have regular meetings. The Centre, partner municipal councils and organisations, along with the current NIIN Interim Steering Committee

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members are proud of the start that NIIN has had, and are confident that NIIN will continue to be a valuable resource that nourishes cultural diversity in Melbourne's Northern region.

In 2010, Dr Michael and Ms Matti produced a working paper emanating from the project, entitled 'Developing a Regional Interfaith/Intercultural Network'. The paper will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. A follow-up article by Dr Michael and Ms Setijadi-Dunn is also currently in the works for publication in late 2011. The article will be a critical analysis of the processes of designing and developing NIIN as a regional interfaith network. Along with the research article, Dr Michael, Ms Setijadi-Dunn, and Prof Desmond Cahill from RMIT University will produce an edited book on the theme of locally based interfaith/intercultural dialogue initiatives from around the world.

Cypriot Academic Dialogue: The Way Forward

Part of on-going dialogue process initiated by Dr Michael in 2000, the Centre for Dialogue was commissioned in 2009 to prepare, facilitate and conduct a set of dialogues amongst Cypriot academics and scholars. A set of two dialogues were held on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd July 2010 at the J. William Fulbright Centre at the Buffer Zone in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Sponsored by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian High Commission in Cyprus and the European Commission Representation in Cyprus, participants included Australian High Commissioner to Cyprus, Evan Williams, the European Commission Representative, Androulla Kaminara and the Senior Programme Manager of the UNDP-ACT Jaco Cilliers.



The Cypriot Academic Workshop on Nicosia, Cyprus, July 2010

The dialogue brought together 27 eminent academics and scholars who examined all aspects of the Cyprus problem, but in a forward-looking manner. Its objectives were to identify areas of mistrust or misunderstanding and the values on which mutual respect could be based, and to

examine ways to promote opportunities for greater social cohesion in Cyprus.

At the conclusion of the dialogues, facilitator Dr Michael said:

The overall aim was to look towards a hopeful vision of the future rather than dwell on the past, important as that may be. The key question was how do Cypriot academics and scholars see Cyprus in five to ten years.

Participants were drawn from academics of Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot origin resident in Cyprus, and represented a wide cross-section of backgrounds and political viewpoints. Each took part in his or her personal capacity, and not as a representative of any institution or organisation.

At the end of the two-day dialogues, participants established a joint bi-communal working group which, since then, has been engaged in enhancing the Cyprus peace talks through ideas, debate and advocacy. It was also decided that further dialogues would be held, and would include academics and scholars from Greece, Turkey and the diaspora.

The Visiting Muslim Scholars Program

In August 2010 Indonesian Muslim Scholar Uilil Abshar-Abdalla visited the Centre for Dialogue. Mr Abdalla is the third and final guest brought to Melbourne as part of the Visiting Islamic Scholars Program, funded by the State Government of Victoria and organised by the Centre for Dialogue in collaboration with the Islamic Council of Victoria.

This program aimed at bringing to Australia key voices in Islamic scholarship from the Muslim communities in the Middle East and in the South East Asian region to engage in an informed and open dialogue with Australian Muslims and policy makers across the Australian community.

Mr Abdalla is an important voice from Indonesia, the largest Muslim nation on the planet and Australia's closest neighbour.

As his visit was during the Holy month of Ramadan Mr Abdalla was hosted by many organisations at evening Iftars (the breaking of the fast). He had kind invitations from the Australian Federal Police, the La Trobe University Islamic Society, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the Indonesian student Diaspora at Victoria University, the Youth Voice Project, the Australian Inter-Cultural Society and the Uniting Church in Australia.

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Each Iftar offered Mr Abdalla a chance to meet with diverse sections of the Victorian Community. There were deep inter-faith dialogues with Jewish and Christian leaders at the AFP dinner and the special meal hosted by Reverend David Pargeter from the Commission for Mission of the Uniting Church. There were intense political debates with the Indonesian and Malaysian students keen to hear about the latest debates in Jakarta and KL.



Ulil Abshar-Abdalla at the Centre for Dialogue.

There were also many opportunities for individuals with interests in Indonesia or in religious dialogue to spend real quality time with Mr Abdalla.

Ulil has over 20,000 people following him on 'Twitter' and his fans in Melbourne soon got to know of his whereabouts. He was invited to a number of impromptu talks and dinners by the Muslim community who deeply appreciated his visit to this city.

Previous Muslim Scholars to visit under this program were former Iranian President H. E. Sayed Mohammed Khatami, and Dr Farish Noor from Malaysia.

Australia-Turkey Dialogue

At the invitation of governmental and non-government research centres, Prof Camilleri and Dr Michael visited Turkey three times in 2010:

- At the invitation of Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prof Camilleri spoke on 'Global and Regional Challenges' at the international conference 'Turkish Diplomacy and Regional/Global Order in the early 21st Century' in Istanbul on 14-16 May 2010;
- Dr Michael's visit to Turkey in June 2010 involved a number of lectures and consultations with government and non-government agencies in Istanbul and Ankara over a series of issues; and,
- Dr Michael was invited by the Institute of Strategic Thinking (SDE) as a discussant on

'Problems and Opportunities in EU-Turkey Relations' at the international conference 'Changing Global Power Balances and Turkey' held at the Sultan's Dolmabache Palace in Istanbul on 6-7 October 2010.

In conjunction with the Centre's long-time engagement with the Australian-Turkish community, the visits provided the opportunity to cultivate contacts and harness ideas for collaboration and exchange. One idea that gained considerable headway was the possibility of mounting an Australia-Turkey Dialogue.



Dr Michael (on screen) discussing EU-Turkey relations at the Istanbul conference.

Whilst still at the exploratory stage, it is intended that such a dialogue will be co-sponsored by a Turkish research centre and the Centre for Dialogue, but with involvement by one or more other academic institutions in each of the two countries. The work will commence with two initial dialogues, one in Istanbul and the other in Melbourne, and would bring together some 20 participants (approximately 10 from each country); primarily scholars and experts, but with a sprinkling of practitioners from relevant ministries, government institutes, the diplomatic corps and diasporic community networks. Themes and topics to be treated could include:

- Turkish Diaspora in Australia and elsewhere;
- Reconnecting/Reconciling/Rediscovering the Past (including Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Assyrian, Kurdish, Alevi, Jewish, Australia – Gallipoli connection);
- Exploring bilateral Turkish-Australian relations (cultural, trade, political, economic, scientific educational); and,
- Turkish and Australian perspectives on: Peace and Security in the Middle East; Islam and the West; and the 'Alliance of Civilisations'.

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Australia-China Dialogue

Whilst China constitutes Australia's principal trading partner, little by way of dialogical exchange and interaction is taking place between the two in terms of a deeper understanding of each other's political, cultural, economic and social outlook. With this as a starting point, following extensive consultation in Australia and China throughout 2010, the Centre for Dialogue decided to mount a new dialogical project: the Australia-China Dialogue (ACD). Through the application of dialogical principles and techniques which the Centre for Dialogue has refined over the last several years, the ACD will explore bilateral, regional and global challenges confronting the two societies, in order to provide a platform for a more constructive and cooperative relationship. The aim is to lay the foundations for a sustainable long term dialogue that is able to bring together opinion leaders from both countries concerned not only with the bilateral relationship, but how it informs the powerful currents that are bearing upon the Asia Pacific region and across the world.

The ACD intends to commence with a first cycle of dialogue scheduled for 2011-2012 in Shanghai and Melbourne. CfD staff members are currently working with a range of partners, including East China Normal University (ECNU) and the Australia China Business Council (ACBC), to put in place the necessary arrangements to widely publicise this important initiative.

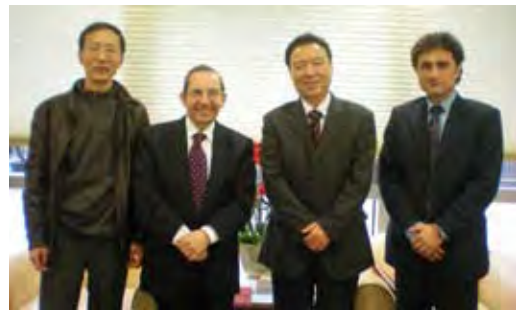
China Field Trip

In support of the newly established Australia China Dialogue, Prof. Joseph Camilleri and Dr Michális S. Michael visited China on 12-19 December 2010. Joined by Prof. Minyue Hou the delegation had 17 meetings over 5 days in Shanghai and Beijing. The trip was made possible by seed funding from the LTU Vice Chancellor's Office. The objective was to brief parties of the project, solicit their views and input, explore collaboration possibilities, establish a culture for dialogue and elevate the importance of the Australia-China relationship overall.

During the visit, the delegation met with a wide range of academic, governmental, and business actors and agencies including: Australian Consulate General, East China Normal University, Fudan University, Asia Society – China Centre, Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS), China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong (CELAP),

Shanghai Bright Holstan, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, China Institutes for Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), the Ford Foundation, Peking University (PKU), China Research Network, China Mining Association, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Australian Embassy to China on the aims and implementation of the ACD.

The CfD would like to acknowledge ECNU's assistance for facilitating the Centre's visit, in particular Prof. Minyue Hou, and the support of the Australia China Business Council (ACBC), La Trobe University's Centre for Chinese Studies, the Chinese Embassy in Canberra, and the Asia Society.



Prof Minyue Hou, Centre Director Prof Camilleri, Mr Jiang Haishan (Vice President, CELAP) and Dr Michális Michael at a meeting in Pudang.



Prof Minyue Hou, Dr Michael and Prof Camilleri meeting with Prof Yang Jiemian, President of SIIS in Shanghai.

Publications

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Edited Books

Ben Isakhan with Stephen Stockwell (eds.), *The Secret History of Democracy*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.



Luca Anceschi with Jonathan Symons (eds.), *Energy Security in the Era of Climate Change: The Asia-Pacific Experience*, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan. [Forthcoming 2011]

Luca Anceschi and Joseph A. Camilleri with Ruwan Palapathwala and Andrew Wicking (eds.), *Religion and Ethics in a Globalizing World: Conflict, Dialogue and Transformation*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, [Forthcoming 2011]

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Luca Anceschi, 'Energy Governance, Security and Climate Change: The Case of post-Soviet Central Asia', in Luca Anceschi and Jonathan Symons (eds.), *Energy Security in the Era of Climate Change: The Asia-Pacific Experience*, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, [Forthcoming 2011].

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Michális S Michael, 'Η Ειρηνευτική Αποστολή των Ηνωμένων Εθνών στην Κύπρο' [UN Peacemaking and Peacekeeping Mission in Cyprus] in Chrystostomos Pericleous (ed.), *Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία 50 Χρόνια Επώδυνη Πορεία* [Republic of Cyprus 50 years painful process]. Athens: Papazisi Publications, 2010, pp. 378-400.



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Sven Schottmann, 'A Theology of Progress: Islam According to Mahathir Mohamad', in a forthcoming volume on Malay politics edited by Dr Gerhard Hoffstaedter, Routledge, [Forthcoming 2011].

Charlotte Setijadi-Dunn, 'Chineseness, Belonging and Cosmopolitan Subjectivities in post-Suharto Independent Films', in C-Y Hoon and S Sai (eds.), *Chinese Indonesians Reassessed: History, Religion and Belonging*, London: Routledge, [Forthcoming].

Charlotte Setijadi-Dunn with Thomas Barker, 'Membayangkan Indonesia: Produser etnis Tionghoa dan sinema prakemerdekaan' [Imagining Indonesia: Ethnic Chinese producers and pre-independence cinema], in E Imanjaya, G-C Khoo and T Barker (eds.), *Mau Dibawa Kemana Sinema Kita?: Beberapa wacana seputar film Indonesia* [Where should we take our cinema? An anthology of Indonesian films], Jakarta: Binus Publishing, 2010, pp. 12-20.

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Luca Anceschi, 'Integrating Domestic Factors and Foreign Policy Making: The Cases of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan', *Central Asian Survey*, Vol. 29, No. 2, pp. 143-158.

Namrata Goswami, 'The Naga Intra-Community Dialogue: Preventing and Managing Violent Ethnic Conflict', *Global Change, Peace and Security*, 2010, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 93-120.

Minyue Hou, 'China-Australia Relations in Iron Ore Trade and Investment', *World Economy Study* (Shanghai), No. 7, July 2010, pp. 69-75.

Benjamin Isakhan, 'Targeting the Symbolic Dimension of Baathist Iraq: Cultural Destruction, National Memory and Identity Politics', *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication*, 2011, Vol. 4, No. 2.

Benjamin Isakhan with M Nathie, H Rane and M Abdalla, 'Measuring Islam in Australia: What Queensland's Muslims Really Think', *Journal of Sociology*, 2010, Vol. 47, No. 2.

Larry Marshall, 'Forum on Sri Lanka Introduction: Sri Lanka after the War', *Global Change, Peace and Security*, October 2010, Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 327-330.

Steph Matti, 'Resources and Rent-seeking in the Democratic Republic of the Congo', *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 31, No. 3, 2010, pp. 401 - 413.

Steph Matti, 'The Democratic Republic of the Congo? Corruption, Patronage and Competitive Authoritarianism in the DRC', *Africa Today*, Vol. 56, No. 4, 2010, pp. 42 - 61.

Charlotte Setijadi-Dunn with Thomas Barker, 'Imagining 'Indonesia': Ethnic Chinese Film Producers in Pre-Independence Cinema', *Asian Cinema*, Vol. 21, No. 2, 2010, pp. 31-43.

Christine Siokou with David Moore and Helen Lee, "'Muzzas" and "Old Skool Ravers": Ethnicity, Drugs and the Changing Face of Melbourne's Dance Party/Club Scene', *Health Sociology Review*, Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 192-204.

Publications

Reports and Submissions

Joseph A Camilleri, 'Toward the Development of a Strategic Plan Fostering International Engagement in the Social Sciences'. Submission to House Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Innovation, The Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. Melbourne: Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University, 2010.

Rita Camilleri, 'Australia-Malaysia Linkages: A Scoping Study'. Report to the Australia-Malaysia Institute, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Melbourne: Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University, 2010.

Michael, Michális S, 'Cypriot Academic Dialogue – The Way Forward'. Report of dialogues held on 2 & 3 July 2010, J. William Fulbright Centre, Buffer Zone (Nicosia) Cyprus, funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Centre for Dialogue and European Commission Representation in Cyprus (ECRC). Melbourne: Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University, 2010.

Editorship of Academic Journal

Global Change, Peace & Security is published by Taylor and Francis for the School of Social Sciences and the Centre for Dialogue at La Trobe University. It is an internationally peer reviewed scholarly journal that addresses the difficult theoretical and policy questions posed by the sheer scale and complexity of contemporary change. More specifically, it analyses the sources and consequences of conflict, violence and insecurity, as well as the conditions and prospects for conflict transformation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.



Dr Stephen James has continued as editor of the journal and has implemented a strategy to better market the journal internationally. Relationships

with the marketing department at Routledge/Taylor & Francis and with local representatives of the publisher have been further strengthened.

The journal conducted the third annual international Routledge–GCP&S Essay Competition, a competition encouraging contributions on global issues from graduate students and early career researchers.

Working Papers

The *Working Paper Series* is a refereed publication intended to provide scholars, students, policy-makers, journalists, and the broader community with an opportunity to contribute to an on-going and wide-ranging debate on the deeper roots of cultural, religious and political conflict, and the contribution which the philosophy and method of dialogue can make to their resolution.

Hans Köchler. 'The Philosophy and Politics of Dialogue', *Centre for Dialogue Working Paper Series*, No. 2010/1, La Trobe University, Melbourne 2010.

Conferences

Faith, Shared Wisdom and International Law

An International Consultation of some sixty scholars in international law, religious studies and the social sciences, together with other leading thinkers and policy makers from different parts of the world, was held on the theme 'Faith, Shared Wisdom and International Law' in Kuala Lumpur from 3 to 7 October 2010. It was jointly convened by the Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University, the International Movement for a Just World (Kuala Lumpur), the Weeramantry International Centre for Peace Education and Research (Colombo), and the Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust (Chennai).



Centre for Dialogue Director, Professor Joseph Camilleri, greets a conference delegate.

The Consultation agreed on a Global Action Plan which draws its inspiration from the moral wisdom shared by the world's religious and ethical traditions, including indigenous spiritualities.

The Consultation, convened with the support of the Malaysian Government, reaffirmed the view that finding common ethical ground can help overcome mistrust and suspicion, weaken religious and political extremism, and pave the way for collaboration in a dangerously divided world.

The consultation noted that humanity is faced with monumental challenges, not least the possession and proliferation of nuclear weapons and massive global environmental degradation.

To build a more peaceful world, it is important not only to eliminate nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction but also to prevent the occurrence of war itself. This requires strengthening mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts at national, regional and international levels. Religious leaders and institutions should be at the forefront of these endeavours, not just in words but in deeds, especially when their respective communities are engaged in violent conflict.

At the same time, to overcome the environmental crisis, the consultation recognised that there will have to be individual and collective transformation

of human consciousness which acknowledges humanity's trusteeship of the environment and the interconnectedness of all life.

For peace building and environmental trusteeship to emerge as overarching principles of the international order, a number of concrete steps were proposed. One was the establishment of a world forum of eminent persons comprising religious scholars, legal experts and former political leaders that would consider ways by which shared wisdom could be incorporated into international law. It is proposed that the recommendations of the forum be submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General as well as to national governments and civil society organisations.

The consultation was also of the view that the draft universal declaration of human responsibilities proposed by the Interaction Council (made up of former heads of government and heads of state) which espouses core values common to all religions should be introduced to the UN General Assembly for debate and adoption. It should stand beside the universal declaration of human rights of 1948 as a statement of high principle. Conventions emanating from the universal declaration of human responsibilities would be open for ratification by UN member states and would have the force of law.



Participants at the Kuala Lumpur Conference.

An Implementation Committee, to be supported by a Secretariat, will be based at a University able to provide administrative support. The committee will consider the conclusions and recommendations arising from the Consultation as well as other proposals as the basis for a five-year program of research, education and intellectual exchange. Apart from the UN and its various agencies, the Implementation Committee will focus upon regional organizations, including ASEAN, the African Union and the European Union; governments sympathetic to the aims and objectives of the project; religious and cultural institutions and personalities; educational institutions in various countries; youth movements operating at national, regional and international levels; indigenous movements and other civil society organisations.

Conferences

Prospects for Peace in the Middle East

Inter-faith discussions have been a highlight of the Leadership Training for Young Muslims program. In July 2010, Christian and Jewish presenters and participants joined the young Muslims to debate, discuss and engage in dialogue about issues as controversial as the war in Iraq, the situation in Lebanon and Iran, and the central issue of Israel and Palestine.

The key questions explored at this three-day conference included: What are the prospects for peace in the Middle East? What roles do the US, Russia and Europe take in this process? What is the role of civil society in the resolution of these conflicts? Can Australia play a constructive role in the Middle East peace process?



Ahmed Imam, CEO of the Islamic Council of Victoria, and Geoffrey Zygier, Executive Director of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, in conversation.

Lectures & Events

Annual Lecture

The Centre's fifth Annual Lecture was delivered by the popular author and philosopher, Professor Raimond Gaita. He divides his time between King's College London and the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne.

Because Prof Gaita believes that it is generally a good thing for philosophers to address an educated and hard-thinking lay audience as well as their colleagues, he has written extensively for non-academic publications.



Professor Raimond Gaita delivers his lecture.

The Lecture was delivered on Tuesday, 24th August at St Mary's College, University of Melbourne and was chaired by Centre Director, Professor Joseph Camilleri.

An audience of over 300 people were engaged by Professor Gaita's thought provoking talk entitled *Conversation and Public Reason*. He argued that forms of oratory in the public sphere should remove the emotional element from their arguments in favour of devices which appeal to their audience's reason. Gaita reasoned that this allows for people to assess the logic of an argument more clearly, rather than being pushed to respond to an argument's emotional pull (which forms of 'spin' seek to achieve).



The audience at St Mary's College.

Keynote Addresses

Professor Camilleri regularly delivers keynote addresses to a range of organisations on a broad array of themes relevant to the Centre's work. During 2010 he was able to accept the following invitations:

- *Governance in an Era of Transition*, Global Studies Lecture, University of Sussex, 18 November 2010.
- Keynote Address to Roundtable on *Dialogue of Civilizations and the Future of Global Governance*, Dialogue Society, London, 23 November 2010.

Other lectures and presentations given by Centre staff during 2010 include:

- Joseph Camilleri and Michális S Michael, *Australia's Foreign Policy*, School of Advanced International and Area Studies, East China Normal University, 15 December 2010.
- Michális S Michael and Larry Marshall, *Religion and Education in Multifaith Australia*, presentation to roundtable 'Countering Religious Prejudice and Advancing Respect for Religious Diversity: Best Practice Educational Models', Centre for Jewish History and Civilization, Monash University, Caulfield Campus, 2 December 2010.
- Stephen James, *A Melbourne School of Human Rights History? Human Rights in the Interwar Years*, Symposium: New Histories of Human Rights hosted by School of Historical and European Studies, Institute for Human Security, and the Colonial and Postcolonial Histories Seminar, La Trobe University, 6 November 2010.
- Joseph A Camilleri, *Climate Change and the Dialogue of Cultures*, La Trobe University, School of Communication, Arts and Critical Enquiry, La Trobe University, Bundoora, 27 September 2010.
- Michális S Michael, *Where to for the Cyprus Conflict? 3+1 Scenarios*, University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus, 23 June 2010.
- Joseph A Camilleri, *Foreign Policy Issues in the Federal Election*, Australian Institute of International Affairs, Melbourne, 18 August 2010.
- Michális S Michael, *Cyprus Conflict and Greek Turkish Relations*, Strategic Institute of Thinking (SDE), Ankara, Turkey, 16 June 2010.

Lectures & Events

- Michális S Michael, *Conflict, Religion and Dialogue in Asia Pacific: an Australian Perspective*, Journalists and Writers Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey, 14 June 2010.
- Michális S Michael, *Towards a Turkish-Australian Dialogue*, Center for Global Studies, Foundation for Sciences and Arts, Istanbul, Turkey, 14 June 2010.
- Stephen James, *Human Security: Origins, Antecedents and Conceptualization*, Human Security Workshop hosted by Institute for Human Security (La Trobe University) and Australian Academy of Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Melbourne, 8 June 2010
- Joseph A Camilleri, *Alternatives to Empire – Another World is Possible*, Uniting Church Centre, Melbourne, 28 April 2010.

International Visitors & Seminars

Visitors

Prof Cristina J Montiel

Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines)

July - November 2010

Prof Montiel was a visiting scholar, funded by an *Australian Leadership Award*, granted by AusAID. Her research interests include politics, peace, peace psychology, political psychology of democratic transitions, psychological landscape of peace-building in Asia.

Dr Sven Alexander Schottman

Monash University

August 2010 - January 2011

Dr Schottman's research interests include political Islam, political mobilisation in the Muslim world and Malaysian perceptions of Turkey. His essay, entitled 'A Theology of Progress: Islam According to Mahathir Mohamad' has been accepted for publication as a book chapter in a volume on Malay politics edited by Dr Gerhard Hoffstaedter. A final draft will be submitted in February 2011 for publication in 2011 by Routledge.

Dr Tulsacharan (Tulsi) Bisht

La Trobe University

July - August 2010

Dr Bisht's research interests include environmental and climate change and their impact on human life, and the Indian environmental movement becoming a violent movement.

Ian Biggs

Australian Ambassador to Turkey

25 November 2010

The Centre for Dialogue hosted an important visit from Australia's newly appointed Ambassador to Turkey, Mr Ian Biggs. The event included an interesting discussion about Australia's bilateral relations with Turkey, Turkey's bid for admission into the EU, Turkey's relationship with Cyprus, and its historical and contemporary geo-political importance as a nation. The meeting was attended by several senior La Trobe staff including Professor Chris Mackie, Professor Charles Mott, Associate Professor Adrian Jones, Richard (Fouad) Dirgham, Dr Michális Michael, and Dr Benjamin Isakhan.



Ian Biggs (centre) with (L-R) Dr Ben Isakhan, Prof Chris Mackie, Dr Adrian Jones and Prof Charles Mott.

Ali Nasser Al Nuaimi

UAE Ambassador to Australia

29 October 2010

The Centre co-hosted, with La Trobe International, a lunch meeting for visiting UAE Ambassador to Australia Ali Nasser Al Nuaimi. Invited by the Vice Chancellor, the ambassador discussed matters pertaining to international students, the Centre's Middle East visit in 2009, and the Leadership Training Programme for Young Muslims. The informal session was chaired by Adjunct Professor Charles Mott, member of the Centre's advisory board.



Ali Nasser Al Nuaimi signs the Centre's guest book as Dr Michális Michael looks on.

International Visitors & Seminars

Seminars

- *Contemporary Palestine: Living Reality and Advocating for Change*, Mr Constantine Dabbagh, Executive Director of the Middle East Council of Churches, and Mr Rifat Kassis, Special Adviser to the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches.



Prof Camilleri contemplates change in Palestine.

- *Arab States in Crisis*, Marina Ottaway, Director of the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- *Conspiracy Theories in the Arab World*, Matthew Gray, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al-Maktoum Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, Australian National University.
- *Looking West: Malaysian Perceptions of Turkey and Turkish Secularism*, Dr Sven Schottman, Visiting Fellow, Centre for Dialogue.

- *Why a nuclear armed Iran could not be contained*, Emanuele Ottolenghi, Senior Fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies.
- *Islam and the State in Indonesia: Is religious intolerance on the rise? What is the relationship between Islam and Politics in Indonesia?*, Ulil Abshar-Abdalla, Visiting Muslim Scholar.



Following the lunchtime seminar by Visiting Muslim Scholar, Ulil Abshar-Abdalla (centre).

- *'Big Picture' Thinking about Asia's Future and Australia's engagement with it*, Richard Woolcott AC.
- *The Balkans Today: Between European Integration and the American-Russian Antagonism*, Spyridon Sfetas, Associate Professor, Philosophical Faculty, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
- *The Psychological Landscape of Peace-building in Asia: Theory and Practice*, Prof Cristina J Montiel, Visiting Fellow, Centre for Dialogue.
- *The Recent Peace Talks in Mindanao - Political Positioning and Intergroup Conflict: Contesting the Social meaning of a Peace Agreement*, Prof Cristina J Montiel, Visiting Fellow, Centre for Dialogue.

The Centre for Dialogue generated significant media interest through a number of projects and events during 2010.

The Visiting Muslim Scholars Program - Ulil Abshar-Abdalla

- Interview with Sen Lam ('Fundamentalism growing in Indonesia') on the *Connect Asia* program (ABC Radio Australia), 24 August 2010.
- Interview with Jim Middleton on *Newsline* (ABC TV), 25 August 2010.



- News article by Barney Zwartz ("Jakarta's voices of reason"), *The Age*, 25 August 2010.
- Interview with Chip Henriss ('Common Ground') in *Crosslight* (Uniting Church Synod Publication), 4 November 2010.

Leadership Training for Young Muslims

- The third intake of the successful Leadership Training for Young Muslims program was applauded in *The Melbourne Times* in an article entitled 'Leading to understanding', 11 August 2010.
- Larry Marshall featured in an introductory piece to an Indonesian Language Breakfast program broadcast on *ABC Radio Australia* (in Bahasa Indonesia) hosted by Nuim Khaiyath. What followed was a 15-minute interview with two Indonesian alumni of the Muslim Leadership Program run by the Centre for Dialogue. Hendra Darmawan and Erifah Hidayati were interviewed about their experiences in Australia, their panel presentation at the international conference in Padang in December 2009 and

their enthusiasm for working together as part of the new 'International Young Muslim Intellectual Network' (IYMIN), 7 January 2010.

Annual Lecture

- Opinion piece by Raimond Gaita published in *The Age*, 21 August 2010. The piece, entitled 'Even Socrates drew the line at spin' ran parallel to the tone of his Annual Lecture in the lead up to the Australian federal election.

The Middle East

- Opinion piece by Benjamin Isakhan published in *The Age*, 27 August 2010. The article, entitled 'What does the US leave behind in Iraq?' provided a contrast between the hung parliaments in Australia and in war-torn Iraq as the US and its allies withdrew its forces.
- Benjamin Isakhan was interviewed by Tanya Nolan on *The World Today*, ABC Radio, as part of a report entitled 'Iraq power vacuum leads to more attacks', 3 November 2010.
- Benjamin Isakhan spoke with Ron Sutton on *SBS Radio* 'No resolution of Iraqi governance', 24 August 2010.

Honours

- Visiting Scholar, Dr Cristina Montiel, received praise in the *Philippine Daily Enquirer* on being awarded the prestigious Ralph White Lifetime Achievement Award. 'Ateneo peace psychology professor receives award', 11 October 2010.
- Tim King paid tribute to Centre Director, Professor Joseph A Camilleri in the *Moonee Valley Leader* in a piece entitled 'Queen's Birthday Honours: Flemington professor a calming influence', 14 June 2010.

Grants

During 2010 new grants were awarded to the Centre by:

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- The Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Ian Potter Foundation
- Victorian Department of Health
- William Buckland Foundation
- Myer Foundation
- Victorian Education Department
- Australia-Malaysia Institute
- Government of Malaysia

Continuing grants were provided by:

- Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria
- ARC Linkage
- Australia-Thailand Institute
- Australia-Malaysia Institute
- A wide range of Community organisations (as listed under various projects)

The Centre wishes to acknowledge the considerable support provided to the Centre by La Trobe University, the Vice Chancellor, Prof Paul Johnson, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Prof Tim Brown, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (IFS), Prof John Rosenberg, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (in particular the former Dean, Prof David de Vaus and the current Dean, Prof Tim Murray), the Institute for Human Security (in particular the Director, Prof Dennis Altman and the Research Office Executive, Ms Tracy Lee), the School of Social Sciences and the Politics and International Relations Program.

Staff in 2010



Professor Joseph A. Camilleri
Director, Centre for Dialogue
BA (Melb), MA (Monash),
PhD (London)



Dr Michális S. Michael
Deputy Director
BA (Sydney), MA (Sydney),
PhD (La Trobe)



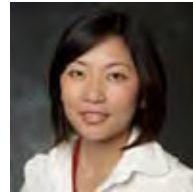
Dr Luca Anceschi
Research Fellow (to Dec 2010)
Laurea (L'Orientale), PhD
(La Trobe)



Dr Benjamin Isakhan
Research Fellow (from June 2010)
BA (Psych), Hons (Hum), PhD
(Mid East Studies) (Griffith)



Mr Larry Marshall
Projects Manager
BA, MA Prelim, DipEd, MA
in Media and Film Studies
(La Trobe)



Ms Charlotte Setijadi-Dunn
*Community Liaison & Education
Officer*
BComm/BA (Hons) (Monash)



Ms Christine Siokou
Administrative Manager
BA (Hons) (La Trobe)



Mr Hamish Myers
Research Assistant (from Dec 2010)
LLB/BIR (La Trobe) (current)



Mrs Rebecca Fowler
Research Assistant (to Jun 2010)
BA (La Trobe) (current)



Mrs Shelley Baulch
Research Assistant (from Jul 2010)
BA (International Studies)
(RMIT)

Centre Board

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The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG

Chair of the Board

The Hon Steve Bracks AC

Director of the Centre

Prof Joseph A Camilleri OAM

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Mr Gary Thomas
Prof Spencer Zifcak