



Centre **for** Dialogue



La Trobe University Centre for Dialogue

2009 Annual Report

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Contents

Centre Overview	1
Director's Report	2
Projects	3
Publications	12
Conferences	14
Lectures & Events	15
International Visitors & Seminars	17
Media	18
Grants	19
Financial Statement	20
Staff in 2009	21
Centre Board	22

Centre Overview

The Centre for Dialogue was established by Academic Board in September 2005 and formally launched in August 2006. The Centre is located within the Faculty of Humanities, 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;
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;
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.

Director's Report

In 2009, particular emphasis was placed on developing a substantial publications profile, on the basis of sustained research and a number of collaborative projects, several of them involving leading international researchers.

As in previous years, a second priority, arising from the first, has been knowledge transfer, that is, the application of knowledge derived from various research-related activities to a wide range of educational and other projects. The approach has been to cultivate a mutually enriching relationship between research on the one hand, and education, policy development and community engagement on the other.

The third priority has been to make the Centre and its activities better known to key stakeholders (in the research, educational, professional, governmental, business, media and other relevant sectors, including the wider public). This was seen as a prerequisite to developing collaborative projects and on-going institutional partnerships.

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

- Dialogue of cultures and civilisations: theoretical and historical perspectives;
- Europe & Asia between Islam and the United States;
- Conflict, religion and culture: implications for Southeast Asia and Australia;
- Dialogue in the educational context;
- Diaspora whose homelands are in conflict;
- Interfaith and intercultural dialogue in local and regional settings.

The following highlights are worth noting:

- Five major publications (four books and a Special Issue of a leading UK journal);
- The launch of the Australia-Malaysia Dialogue;
- First steps in the development of a new program on the relationship between culture, dialogue and climate change;
- Continued development and internationalisation of our journal Global

Change, Peace and Security;

- The Young Muslims Leadership Training Programme, funded by the Victorian Government, entered its third year. In 2009, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade funded the participation in the Programme of six young Muslims from Southeast Asia. The Victorian government announced its intention to fund the program for another 2 years (2009-2010).
- The Centre began 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.

I take this opportunity to thank the dedicated contribution of all colleagues at the Centre for their skill and commitment. The Centre is deeply indebted to those who have contributed to the administrative arrangements of the Centre, in particular Christine Siokou and Rebecca Fowler. I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable contribution made by Dr George Myconos who left the Centre to take up another position with the Brotherhood of St Laurence. Dr Myconos had been with the Centre since its inception, and played a leadership role in applying the philosophy and method of dialogue to education, especially in the context of secondary schooling in Victoria.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board who have continued to take a strong interest in the growth of the Centre, offering us the benefit of their expertise, contacts and insights. I am especially grateful to Steve Bracks who, in addition to chairing the Board, has provided the Centre with invaluable advice, contacts and support throughout the year.

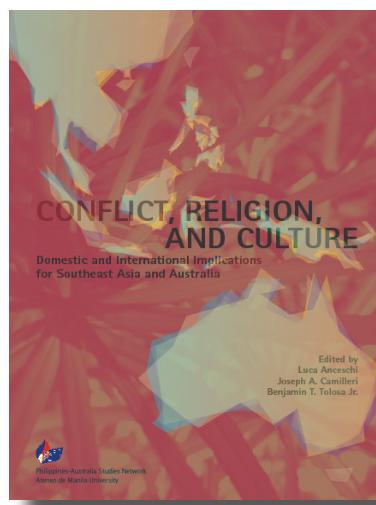


Joseph A. Camilleri
Director, Centre for Dialogue
Professor of International Relations
15 February 2010

Projects

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

This three year project examines the implications of recent international conflicts involving Islam for multi-ethnic, multi-faith societies. Particular attention focuses on how Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (four countries with sharply contrasting demographic profiles and geopolitical circumstances) have responded to both international and domestic tensions arising from the attacks of September 11 and their aftermath. The project is designed to assess the adequacy of these responses, and propose policies, practices and discourse more finely attuned to the requirements of intercultural dialogue and conflict minimisation.



The project has been led by the Centre for Dialogue in collaboration with three partner institutions:

- PPIM - Centre for the Study of Islam, Universitas Islam Negari Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta;
- The Department of Politics and the Institute of Philippine Culture, Ateneo de Manila University, the Philippines;
- The Institute for Strategic and International Studies and the International Movement for a Just world, Malaysia.

This project is funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC Discovery Grant), and the Toda Institute for Global Policy and Peace Research (Honolulu and Tokyo).

Dr Anceschi, Prof Camilleri and A/Prof Benjamin Tolosa (Ateneo de Manila University) edited a volume that included selected papers from the project's first regional workshop organised by the Centre for Dialogue and hosted by Ateneo de Manila (27-28 August 2007). The editorial process was concluded in December 2008. The book was published in early 2009 and launched by the Hon. Laurie Ferguson, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services (see page 16).

Dr Anceschi and PPIM Director Dr Jajat Burhanuddin are currently exploring possibilities for publication of a selection of papers presented at the Jakarta workshop (October 2008) either in an integrated volume or as a special issue of a leading international academic journal.

There are currently plans for a third workshop to be held in August 2010 at La Trobe University around the same theme.

Europe and Asia between Islam and the United States

This five-year project is designed to assess how countries in Europe and Asia are handling the rise of political Islam. The project investigates the close interconnections between two fields of inquiry that are often regarded as discrete, but are in fact two interconnected facets of a social and political reality:

- *Domestic domain* – in particular, policies developed in response to tensions between Muslim and non-Muslim communities in Europe and Asia; the contradictions of Islamic political parties operating in secular, democratic systems; and the emergence of anti-west, anti-government terrorist cells in countries in both Europe and Asia;
- *International domain* – in particular the role of Islamic states, and states with a high Islamic population, in international relations – i.e. Afghanistan, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia.

The project has been supported by grants from a number of organisations, including the Contemporary Europe Research Centre

(University of Melbourne), the Innovative Universities European Union Centre, Ambassade de France en Australie and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2008 marked the third year of the project, building on international workshops in Nagoya (2006), Warsaw (2007), and a major international Conference at La Trobe (December 2007): 'Europe and Asia between Islam and the United States: The Lesson from Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon and Iran'.

In 2009, the Centre completed a Special Issue of the UK-based academic journal International Politics. The special issue entitled 'The Islamic World between Europe and the United States' features selected papers from the conference. Professor Camilleri and Dr Anceschi, alongside Dr Fabio Petito (University of Sussex, UK) were the guest editors. The special issue was released in October 2009.

Dialogue Diaspora

The Dialogue Diaspora projects (coordinated by Dr Michalis S. Michael and Prof Joseph A. Camilleri with the assistance of Aran Martin [Sri Lanka] and Nicholas Taylor [Middle East]) explore the prospects for dialogue between a number of diasporic communities resident in Australia that are affected by conflicts in their original homelands. Projects involving the Sri Lankan, Cypriot, Jewish/Israeli and Arab communities have taken place since the inception of the program.

Specifically, the program aims to investigate the potential for dialogue within a favourable and partially controlled environment. For this purpose the Centre for Dialogue is able to make use of its expertise and wide-ranging contacts to:

- Create a conducive environment for open and free-flowing dialogical interaction;
- Assist the parties to identify areas of disagreement, mistrust or misunderstandings and to explore possibilities for dialogue, mutual respect and understanding;
- Explore opportunities for co-operation and joint activities between the parties;
- Monitor the progress of the dialogue, and examine the conditions that facilitate this process and possible agreement, on the one hand, and those that impede such dialogue and agreement on the other.

An underlying premise of the program is to identify the conditions that are conducive to the development of dialogical skills, attitudes and relationships, which can in turn inevitably enrich Australian multiculturalism and promote conflict resolution in the homelands of diasporic communities. Two specific programs – one on Sri Lanka and the other involving Middle Eastern communities - were funded by the William Buckland Foundation for two years, commencing in 2008. The Victorian Multicultural Commission has once again been a strong supporter of the program by funding the hire of suitable venues to conduct the dialogues.



First session of the Middle East Dialogue, led by Dr Michalis S. Michael.

In its first year, the project was chiefly occupied with the development of the Sri Lanka Community Dialogue, which was convened during a period of fierce fighting in Sri Lanka. Members of Melbourne's Sri Lankan Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim and Burgher groups concluded the dialogue process in November 2008 by issuing a joint statement on the Sri Lanka conflict. The statement called for further dialogue among Sri Lankan diaspora communities in Australia and internationally as a positive step towards restoring peace in Sri Lanka, and set out conditions which would need to be observed with respect to civilians caught in the conflict. The parties also agreed to proceed towards the organisation of two joint activities.

A research article reflecting on the experience of the Sri Lanka Community is currently approaching publication.

In the second year of the project, the focus has been on the Middle East conflicts. The aim of the project is to engage parties in a constructive and respectful dialogue on the deeply divisive conflicts in the Middle East and to explore how these considerations affect the respective community's relationships within Australia.

A series of intensive dialogues were held in Melbourne between July and November 2009, following a number of preliminary consultations which were designed to refine the content and course of the dialogues. From this, a collective group comprised of some 30 participants was established, representing a cross section of political views, religious, ethnic backgrounds, gender and ages.

As of February 2010, two further sessions of the Dialogue on the Middle East were scheduled to take place. Taking place in February and March, participants have been invited to propose, design and develop a small number of joint activities that will address, either at the community or international level, the tensions that exist between the Arab and Israeli communities.

Centre staff aim to have an article ready for publication by mid-2010 that explores the outcomes of the Dialogue on the Middle East, with the experience informing a number of other projects relating to the Middle East at the Centre

Education Dialogue Project

The Education Dialogue Project seeks to explore and monitor the introduction of dialogical perspectives and methods as a means of enhancing intercultural awareness within Victorian secondary schools.

The project, led by Dr Myconos, was funded by the Victorian Government's Community Support Fund, the Scanlon Foundation and the Myer Foundation.

The underlying premise of the project is that intercultural literacy in educational programmes can make an important contribution to mitigating community conflict and tension, and promoting multicultural dialogue and cooperation.

The Education Dialogue Project relies on two distinct but related means of promoting intercultural awareness through dialogue:

- Hosting training workshops for secondary school teachers and other education professionals aimed at promoting ideas integral to intercultural dialogue.
- Ongoing collaboration with a select group of schools with a view to devising initiatives

informed by the idea of intercultural dialogue. These initiatives are incorporated into the relevant school's programmes.

Six schools were carefully selected for the pilot scheme: Lalor North Secondary College, Cleland Campus of Dandenong High School, Catholic Ladies' College, Marian College, Cootha Secondary College, Northcote High School.

In April the Centre published a kit arising from a two year project containing dialogue specific teaching materials for use in secondary schools.

The teaching 'pack', entitled "Understanding Cultural Difference Through Dialogue", consists of ten activities with lesson plans, designed to help educators introduce middle years students to an array of questions and ideas concerning identity, culture, and social cohesion. In doing so it draws on the techniques of Active Listening, the dialogic method, and Socratic Circles.

The pack represents a flexible tool that we hope will complement efforts in schools to engender more empathetic approaches to identity and cultural difference. The unit is a product of the Centre's collaboration with school teachers, principals, and leaders in curriculum development, notably Tom Hurle, Hannah O'Keefe, Joseph Chetty, and Doug Macrae.

Values-Related Initiatives in Victorian Independent Schools

Research commissioned by the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria was undertaken by the Centre for Dialogue. This involved an analysis of the extent to which educators in independent schools in Victoria have embraced 'values education'.

The project combined qualitative and quantitative research methods. The research found that 'values education' is regarded by education professionals as intrinsic to their craft. They believe that in order to realise the potential of new 'values education' programmes schools must clearly enunciate their values frameworks, engage more fully with the wider community, and ensure that all staff are exemplars of the values espoused.

The research findings were published in a major report to be distributed by the Association to all

schools in the independent school sector, as well as to key government departments and agencies.

Role of Faith Based Schools in Australia

The Centre of Dialogue was commissioned by the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria to undertake research towards the formulation of a 'position paper' on the role of faith based schools.

The project considers the breadth and composition of the faith based school sector in Australia, its contribution to Australian society historically, and its relationship with the public school sector. It examines the contentious issues/debates (in Australia and elsewhere) with regard to faith based education, before outlining the contributions of faith based schools to Australian society.

Research findings will be published in a major report to be distributed by the Association to all schools in the independent school sector, as well as to key government departments and agencies.

Leadership Training Programme for Young Muslims

The Young Muslims Leadership Programme is a unique education program that supports leaders who can speak clearly and confidently about the issues which confront people of Islamic faith in Australia. In 2009 we had an expansion of this successful programme run by the Centre for Dialogue in partnership with the Islamic Council of Victoria. The two month intensive leadership course was researched, prepared and delivered by the Centre with various partners interstate.



A participant from the Young Muslim Leadership Programme in Sydney.

The YML program is managed by Larry Marshal. It received funding for 2009 and 2010 from the Victorian Government. The State government's support was echoed by the Commonwealth through the Community Outreach Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which increased its funding to allow us to bring eight young South East Asian Leaders to Melbourne for the entire course. Sixteen local leaders were chosen along with four from Indonesia, two from Malaysia and two from the Philippines.



Participants in the Young Muslim Leadership Programme meet with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials.

The program began with a series of seven workshops. Workshops run by the ICV focussed on Islamic Banking and current community concerns. There were also workshops run by Professor Camilleri and Dr Michael on the practice of Dialogue and the various aspects of Conflict Resolution, including inter-faith dialogue.

The programme included the study tours in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra. The highlight in Canberra, made possible by the support of the office of MHR Ms Maria Vamvakina, was a full day of meetings with politicians from across the spectrum in Federal Parliament. In Sydney the group was hosted by the Australian Catholic University and also by Affinity Intercultural Foundation, FAIR Australia (Forum on Australia's Islamic Relations) and Sokka Gakkai International (SGI).

In Sydney, meetings included:

- ABC journalists and management
- Muslim Community Leaders and advocates
- The CEO of Deloitte a major consulting firm
- Leaders of the Aboriginal Community including Mr Tom Calma (Social Justice Commissioner)
- The Bishop of Parramatta
- Buddhist leaders at SGI

Another new initiative was a three day conference on 'Prospects for Peace in the Middle East'. This conference involved Christians and Jewish leaders joining the young Muslims for discussions and debates about the politics of the war in Iraq and the situation in Iran and Lebanon and the central issue of Israel/Palestine.

The Centre hopes to keep building on the solid base established over the past three years. Many alumni of the Young Muslims Leadership Programme have taken up leadership roles in the wider community; many also continue to offer their services as mentors in the programme.

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

This three year project is led by Prof. Joseph Camilleri and Dr. Michális S. Michael with the assistance of Charlotte Setijadi-Dunn. It is funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant, the State Government of Victoria (through the Community Support Fund), Banyule City Council, Darebin City Council, Hume City Council, Moreland City Council, Whittlesea City Council, Buddhist Council of Victoria, the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, the Uniting Church Commission for Mission, and the Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre.

The aim of the project is to research and design a model for an interfaith and intercultural network for the Northern region of Melbourne. It is based on active collaboration between the Centre for Dialogue, the five city councils, and eight partner organisations drawn from the faith and multicultural sectors. Expected to be the first regional network of its kind in Australia, it is intended that the network will connect local government and a range of community-related organisations.

As the project moved to its second phase in early 2009, an initial report was produced entitled 'Interfaith and Intercultural Network in Melbourne's Northern Suburbs: Preliminary Report'. The report called for the establishment of an Interfaith and Intercultural Network in Melbourne's Northern Suburbs, which would build upon and support the many initiatives that already exist within the region.

Recommendations made in the report were based on key findings derived from the survey of local interfaith and intercultural initiatives conducted in 2008 to determine the best locally based interfaith practices in Australia (especially in Victoria) and internationally. The principal findings of the report were well received and accepted by the key stakeholders.

To begin the monitoring phase (Phase Three) of the project, a community consultation was held in June 2009 whereby participants drawn from each of the five municipalities representing various organisations discussed the future direction and key priorities of the Network and the establishment of an Interim Steering Committee.



Northern Interfaith and Intercultural Network (NIIN) Community Consultation, Banyule Town Hall, June 2009

The first Northern Interfaith/Intercultural Network (NIIN) Interim Steering Committee meeting was then held in September 2009 with great success. In this meeting, members of the committee also planned NIIN's future activities, including the possibility of establishing working groups in order to focus members' participation and efforts more specifically. Several themes for the working groups were mentioned, such as international students, education, environment, social justice, health, domestic violence, database, and the establishment of a website. This initial steering committee meeting was then followed by second and third meetings in October and November 2009.

We are seeing encouraging results and participation from most members, and so far the project is progressing well within the proposed timeline. This is an ideal situation as we move to the evaluation phase (Phase Four) of the project in 2010 designed to assess the effectiveness and viability of the Network and its various activities.

In 2010, Dr. Michael (with the assistance of Charlotte Setijadi-Dunn and Stephanie Matti) will produce a number of research articles in top international peer-reviewed journals (such as the

Journal of Intercultural Studies; Journal of Urban Affairs, and Social Identities; Journal for the study of race, nation & culture). Along with these research articles, an international symposium on the theme of locally based interfaith/intercultural dialogue initiatives featuring various faith leaders and leading academics from around the world will be hosted by the Centre. Upon the completion of the symposium, Dr. Michael and Charlotte Setijadi-Dunn will then produce an edited book from the papers and case studies presented at the symposium.

Islam and foreign-policy making: The Relationships of Saudi Arabia and Iran with the Post-Soviet States of Central Asia

Dr Anceschi is in the early stages of developing this three year project. The relationship between religion and foreign policy has become a vexing issue in international relations, nowhere more so than in the Muslim world. Combining a carefully structured conceptual framework with detailed empirical analysis, this study explores how, and to what extent, Islamic worldviews have shaped Saudi Arabia's and Iran's relations with the newly independent states of post-Soviet Central Asia.

The principal aim of this study of this study is to shed new light on the role of Islam in the Middle East and Central Asia and on the apparent resurgence of religion in contemporary international relations.

In early 2010 Dr Anceschi submitted a grant application to the Australian Research Council. Further research on this project is pending the outcome of this application.

Resolving the Cyprus Conflict: Negotiating History

During 2009 Dr Michael brought this longstanding project to completion.

This project, which reviews the negotiating process of the Cyprus conflict over the last forty years, comes at a critical time for the partitioned island-state of Cyprus and for the most recent attempts



Dr Michael delivers a speech at the launch of 'Resolving the Cyprus Conflict: Negotiating History' Australian Institute of International Affairs December 2009.

to resolve it. By placing the conflict in its historical, ideological, ethno-political and geostrategic context, this study extends beyond conventional realist approaches and lays bare the less visible dimensions of the conflict that are often ignored by analysts and policy-makers. The resultant book was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2009.

Worlds in Transition: Evolving Governance across a Stressed Planet

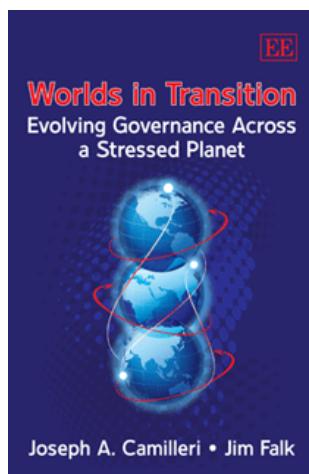
This project, which has Prof Camilleri and Prof Jim Falk (Director, Australian Centre for Science, Innovation and Society, University of Melbourne) as its chief investigators, has been nearly seven years in the making. In an earlier stage it benefited from a three-year ARC Discovery grant.

The project begins by placing the contemporary flow of events and relationships within a much longer evolutionary timescale than is generally the practice in the study of international relations. To achieve this two preliminary steps were necessary:

- to revisit a large body of theory dealing with both biological and cultural evolution (for which purpose the study embarked upon an extensive literature survey)
- to derive from this survey a number of carefully formulated insights and propositions and apply them to the evolution of the institutions of governance over several millennia.

Examination of the evidence suggests that the international system has over the last several decades entered a period of transition (i.e. a threshold) which has yet to run its course. This period is too complex to be reduced to 'globalisation'

or even to the 'global' age (as many have argued). We still see elements of the previous epoch (all the things that we associate with modernity, modernism and modernization), but superimposed on it are new layers built on older traditions, which are reasserting themselves with varying degrees of vigour and are injecting into the world system competing normative and institutional frameworks. As a consequence, the contemporary world may be described as simultaneously singular (globalising and increasingly interconnected) and plural (diverse and multi-tiered).



The emerging system of governance may be understood in terms of a series of attempts to reconcile the twin imperatives of singularity and plurality. The study investigates these attempts with reference to five critical arenas of governance (with appropriate case studies): international trade (intellectual property), security (weapons of mass destruction and terrorism), environment (atmospheric flows), health (AIDS) and communications (Internet).

This major study was published by Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, UK in 2009.

The Visiting Muslim Scholars Program

This program is funded by the Victorian State Government. It aims to bring important Islamic Scholars from different parts of the Muslim world to Victoria as honoured guests to speak on Islamic issues in the world today. The Centre for Dialogue works together with the Islamic Council of Victoria with support from the Victorian State Government to coordinate these high profile visits.

The visiting Islamic Scholars are asked to address a number of key issues which go to the heart of Islam's role in the contemporary world, including

the relationship between faith and society, between Islam and the West, and between faith and the secular state. They are usually here for a period of five to ten days. They have met with government officials, political and civic leaders past and present, given lectures to the Muslim Community and the academic community, had dialogues with faith leaders and given a number of media interviews.

The former President H. E. Sayed Mohammed Khatami came as part of the Programme. On 26 March 2009 the Centre for Dialogue hosted an address by Khatami, the Former President of Iran (1997-2005) and pioneer of the 'Dialogue of Civilisations'. The address, entitled 'Dialogue Among Civilisations: The Do's and Don'ts of Theory and Practice' was the only public address given by Khatami in Melbourne. Over 1800 people attended, with another 1000 people turned away after all three lecture theatres were filled.

Drawing on his experience as a leader of the reform movement in Iran and as a leading religious scholar, Khatami discussed the role of dialogue among cultures and civilisations in international relations. He emphasised the importance of digital media and the way it might facilitate dialogue between different elements of society around the world, acting as an intermediary and circumventing governments.



Former President H. E. Sayed Mohammed Khatami addresses approximately 1500 people at La Trobe University March 2009.

The public address received national and international attention. An article in *The Age* provided a background to Khatami's visit, and an article in the *New Straits Times Online* covered the event.

As the hosting body, the Centre for Dialogue organised for Khatami to meet with prominent individuals and organisations in an itinerary that included:

- The Board of Imams
- The Australian Institute for International Affairs
- National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies Australia (NCEIS)

- The Honourable Steven Bracks, Former Premier of Victoria
- The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier, Anglican Archbishop
- Mr Harry Jenkins, Speaker of the House of Representatives
- The Honourable Malcolm Fraser, Former Prime Minister of Australia
- Ms Maria Vamvakinou, Federal Member for Calwell

Khatami also gave an interview to ABC's *Lateline*.

In October Dr. Farish Ahmad Noor from Malaysia visited the Centre for Dialogue. Dr Noor is a Senior Fellow at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and Affiliated Professor at Universitas Muhamadiyah Surakarta (Solo) Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Dr Noor is both a respected academic, who has published many books and papers, and a strong defender of human rights.



Dr Farish Noor delivers a lecture on the occasion of the launch of the Special Issue of *International Politics*.

In a wide ranging series of lectures, interviews and panel discussions Dr Noor gave an account of his years of field research in Madrasas (Islamic Schools) across Asia. His political knowledge of the politics of his two homes in Malaysia and Indonesia was valued at the Australian Institute of International Affairs and at seminars with academics at Monash, La Trobe and Deakin Universities. Dr Noor was interviewed by ABC TV and radio and by *The Age* in Melbourne.

Dr Noor had a stimulating meeting with the Young Muslim Leaders who had been part of the Centre's Leadership Training program in the past three years. The Northern Inter-Faith Network organised a public event at which five young leaders matched wits with Dr Noor who challenged them to describe what is particular about Islam in Australia.

Early in 2010 the Centre will invite its third respected Muslim Scholar to visit Australia.

Exploring Prospects for Dialogue in the Middle East

Between 12 April and 8 May 2009, a delegation of the Centre for Dialogue visited the Middle East. The delegation comprised of the Centre's Director, Professor Joseph A. Camilleri, and Research Fellows Dr Michalis S. Michael and Dr Luca Anceschi. The Centre's delegation visited seven countries: United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority (with Dr Michael also visiting Cyprus to facilitate a consultation, hosted by the Australian High Commissioner Evan Williams, amongst Greek and Turkish Cypriot academics).

The visit was part of a larger project (Building an Arab-Australian Intercultural Dialogue) funded by the Council for Arab-Australian Relations at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Middle East Field Trip

In early 2009, Professor Camilleri, Dr Michael and Dr Anceschi held regular meetings and communications with the relevant Arab embassies in Canberra; and exchanged regular correspondence with the Australian diplomatic representations in the region. Both Arab, Israeli and Australian diplomatic representations expressed enthusiastic support for the Centre's visit, and assisted in various practical ways to set up meetings, contacts and introductions, especially with research institutions, universities and government authorities. This enabled the delegation to enjoy high level access to policy-makers, diplomats, religious leaders, and senior academics and scholars in the seven countries visited and in the Palestinian National Authority.

The main objective of the visit was to explore possibilities for establishing on-going collaborative projects and relations between the Centre for Dialogue and different institutions in the region. The Centre's delegation attended more than 55 meetings during the four-week trip. Highlights of the visit included a reception at the Australian Embassy in Kuwait – at which Professor Camilleri delivered a lecture on the relevance of intercultural dialogue for international politics – a meeting with the Syrian Minister for Higher Education Dr Ghais Barakat, a roundtable on Middle Eastern Security at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a colloquium with Shaikh Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar al-Sharif in Cairo.

Projects

AB10/81
12 May 2010

A number of Middle Eastern institutions agreed in principle to explore future avenues of cooperation with the Centre for Dialogue. The Centre staff are currently developing a number of projects involving cooperation with institutions in the Middle East. To begin with, the Centre is in the preliminary stages of organising a Joint International Workshop on Arab-Iranian relations. Secondly, projects aimed at establishing bilateral dialogues with Syrian, Egyptian, and Saudi counterparts are currently in preparation. The possibility of organising a National Consultation of Arab students in Australia was under consideration.

The Centre was also exploring the possibility of establishing an ambitious research project which will culminate in the joint organisation of an international symposium, provisionally titled "Obama's Comprehensive Peace Plan for the Middle East: Empty Rhetoric or Practical Possibility?" During the visit to Israel, Professor Camilleri invited Rabbi David Rosen to visit the Centre for Dialogue. He subsequently accepted the invitation to deliver the 2009 Annual Lecture (for details see page 15).



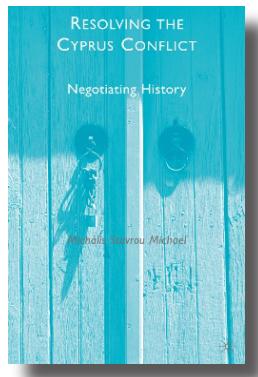
From top to bottom: CfD Delegation meet with the Kuwait Public Relations Association; CfD Delegation meet with officials at the Australian Embassy, Israel; CfD Delegation meet with Dr Bader al-Din Hasson, Mufti of the Syrian Arab Republic; Prof Camilleri & Ambassador Alislaboly, Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Publications

Authored Books

Joseph A Camilleri and Jim Falk, *Worlds in Transition: Evolving Governance Across a Stressed Planet*, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2009

Michalis S Michael, *Resolving the Cyprus Conflict: Negotiating History*, Melbourne: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009



Edited Books

Michalis S. Michael and Fabio Petito (eds), *Civilizational Dialogue and World Order: The Other Politics of Cultures, Religions, and Civilizations in International Relations*, Melbourne: Palgrave Macmillian, 2009

Luca Anceschi, Joseph A. Camilleri, and Benjamin T Tolosa jr, (eds.), *Conflict, Religion and Culture: Domestic and International Implications for Southeast Asia and Australia*, Manila, Philippines: Australia Studies Network, 2009 (In Press).

Special Issue of the journal: *International Politics*

Guest Editors Luca Anceschi, Joseph Camilleri and Fabio Petito, 'Special Issue: The Islamic World Between Europe and the United States', *International Politics*, V46, No.5, September 2009.

Chapters in Books

Michális S. Michael with Fabio Petito, 'Imperial Monologue or Civilizational Dialogue?', in M. S. Michael and Fabio Petito (eds.), *Civilizational Dialogue and World Order: The Other Politics of Cultures, Religions, and Civilizations in International*

Relations, London: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2009 (In Press).

Joseph A. Camilleri and Luca Anceschi, 'Introduction' in Luca Anceschi, Joseph A. Camilleri & Benjamin T Tolosa jr., (eds.), *Conflict, Religion and Culture: Domestic and International Implications for Southeast Asia and Australia*, Manila, Philippines: Australia Studies Network, 2009 (In Press).

Michális S Michael, 'Australia's Governmental Handling of Tensions between Islam and the West: the Howard Government's Legacy', in Luca Anceschi, Joseph A. Camilleri, and Benjamin T Tolosa jr., (eds.), *Conflict, Religion and Culture: Domestic and International Implications for Southeast Asia and Australia*, Manila, Philippines: Australia Studies Network, 2009 (In Press).

George Myconos, 'The Australian Media's Treatment of Muslims Since 9/11', in Luca Anceschi, Joseph A. Camilleri, and Benjamin T Tolosa jr., (eds.), *Conflict, Religion and Culture: Domestic and International Implications for Southeast Asia and Australia*, Manila, Philippines: Australia Studies Network, 2009 (In Press).

Stephen James, 'A Right to Welfare', in Roderic Alley (ed), *Celebrating Human Rights: Sixty Years of the Universal Declaration: Proceedings of the Wellington Conference*, New Zealand Institute of International Affairs and New Zealand Human Rights Commission: Wellington, Auckland, New Zealand, 2009

Articles

Michális S. Michael, 'Australia's Handling of Tensions between Islam and the West under the Howard Government', *Asian Journal of Political Science*, vol. 17, no. 1, 2009, pp. 45-70.

Luca Anceschi, Joseph Camilleri, and Fabio Petito, 'Europe, the United States and the Islamic World: Conceptualising a Triangular Relationship', *International Politics*, 46(5), September 2009, pp.505 - 516.

Conference Proceedings

Joseph A. Camilleri, 'The Alliance of Civilizations: Possible Pathways for Asia Pacific', Symposium:

Publications

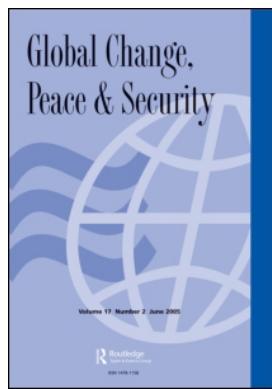
The Alliance of Civilizations: Possible Pathways for Asia Pacific, Tokyo: Soka University, Peach Research Institute, 2009, pp. 5-14.

Book Reviews

Stephen James, '*Human Rights at the UN: The Political History of Universal Justice*', Roger Norman and Sarah Zaid. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2008'. *Human Rights & Human Welfare*, 2009

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.



In February, Dr Stephen James became the editor of the journal and developed a strategy to better market the journal internationally. Almost all of the goals outlined in the marketing strategy have been achieved and the process has also led to a stronger relationship with the marketing department at Routledge/Taylor & Francis as well as with local representatives of the publisher. Early in the year, the editor attended a Routledge journal editors' roundtable held in Melbourne.

The editorial team was renewed and a number of distinguished scholars was added to it. The role

of the regional editors has been enhanced and generally the roles of various members of the editorial board have been made clearer and more systematic.

In Volume 22(1) (February), the journal published its twentieth anniversary issue from the Oceanic Conference of International Studies (OCIS) III held in Brisbane. The OCIS is the largest conference of international studies in the Southern Hemisphere. The issue featured articles from a number of distinguished scholars, including Professor Andrew Linklater of the University of Aberystwyth. The journal is a partner with OCIS IV (Auckland 2010) and will publish a special issue from this conference in 2011.

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

Connections: Newsletter of the Centre for Dialogue

Connections, the Centre's annual newsletter, attempts to inform the reader of the Centre's activities in an engaging manner. It draws attention to current issues upon which the Centre's research is based.

Some 5000 copies of this year's edition were printed and disseminated using the Centre's extensive international and national databases.



Conference

Energy Security in the Era of Climate Change: A Dialogue on Current Trends and Future Options

Research Fellow, Dr Luca Anceschi coordinated a two day conference, hosted by the Centre for Dialogue and sponsored by the Australian Academy of Social Sciences to discuss Energy Security in the Era of Climate Change.

This interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary project was primarily designed to discuss the interplay of four key sets of considerations in the assessment of energy security options for Australia and the world: geostrategic, economic, environmental and cultural. It is this complex interplay that is often lost sight of in current academic and policy discussions. In this sense, the papers presented at the workshop and the ensuing in-depth discussions have made useful contributions to the emerging intellectual debate on one of the most pressing issues confronting the national and international policy agenda.

The first stage of this ongoing project, the workshop Energy Security in the Era of Climate Change: A Dialogue on Current Trends and Future Options was held at the Bundoora campus of La Trobe University on 16-17 July 2009. Seventeen participants were invited to the seven sessions into which the two-day workshop was divided.

Professor Camilleri and Dr Anceschi, the workshop's convenors, carefully selected the workshop participants from three main arenas – academia, private sector and government – all of which continue to play a crucial role in defining the current Australian debate on the politics of climate change and its interconnection with energy security.

Highlights of Workshop

- Case studies highlighting the relationship between climate and energy policy: China, India, post-soviet Central Asia and Australia.
- A detailed assessment of the influence of energy security concerns on multilateral climate negotiations and, conversely, the impact of the emerging climate change regime on global energy security and global geopolitics more generally.
- A re-evaluation of the relationship between

energy and climate policy in the light of the many obstacles to achieving a coherent global response to climate change and the present-day competitive scramble among states to secure long-term energy supplies.

- A reconceptualisation of the multiple ways in which the competing imperatives of climate and energy policy can be reconciled – hence the need to redefine the concept of energy security, so as to incorporate the social and cultural implications of different levels and patterns of energy consumption.

Participants presenting papers included:

- Dr Mark Diesendorf, University of New South Wales
- Prof Peter Droege, University of Newcastle
- Prof Jim Falk, University of Melbourne
- Dr William Lilley, CSIRO
- Dr Richard Leaver, Flinders University
- Mr Mark Lister, Szencrop
- Dr Jon Symons, Lingnan University, HK
- Prof Xu Yi-Chong, Griffith University;
- Dr Hugh Saddler, Sustainability Advice Team and Energy Strategies;
- Dr Luca Anceschi, La Trobe University; and
- Prof Joseph Camilleri, La Trobe University.

Palgrave Macmillan has included a volume arising from the workshop in its prestigious series on Energy, Climate and the Environment. Publication is tentatively expected for mid 2010. The Centre's Dr Anceschi and Dr Jonathan Symons from the Hong Kong Institute of Education will co-edit the volume, to be published in early 2011. This ground-breaking study will be titled *Energy Security in the Era of Climate Change: The Asia-Pacific experience*.

Lectures & Events

Annual Lecture

The Centre's fourth Annual Lecture was delivered by Rabbi David Rosen, Director, American Jewish Committee's Department for Interreligious Affairs; International President of the Religions for Peace (WCRP); and an executive of the Word Council of Religious Leaders (WCORL). In November 2005, Rabbi Rosen was awarded a papal Knight Commander of the Order of St Gregory the Great for his contribution to promoting Catholic-Jewish reconciliation.



National Gallery of Victoria

The Lecture was delivered on Monday, 30th November at the National Gallery of Victoria and was chaired by La Trobe University Chancellor Sylvia J Walton, AO, FAICD.

Rabbi Rosen argued passionately on the role of religion within the Middle East peace process. Discussing his role on the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land, Rabbi Rosen advocated a stronger role for grassroots religion in peacemaking. If religion is not to be part of the problem, he suggested that there was no option but to turn it into a catalyst for conflict resolution.



Annual Lecture and Book Launch, November 2009.
From left to right: Rabbi David Rosen, Dr Sylvia Walton,
Prof. Joseph Camilleri, Justice Christopher Weeramantry
and Prof. Robert Manne.

Rabbi Rosen lamented the attitude that religion and religious groups should be excluded from the process of reconciliation, stating that only when marginalised does religion become extreme, and therefore dangerous.

Book Launch: Tread Lightly on the Earth: Religion, the Environment and the Human Future, C. G. Weeramantry

As part of the Annual Lecture event, a book launch was held for Judge Christopher G. Weeramantry's book, *Tread Lightly on the Earth: Religion, the Environment and the Human Future*.

Professor Robert Manne, La Trobe University discussed the relevance of the book in today's atmosphere of scepticism and denialism with regards to climate change. Prof Manne emphasised the importance of grassroots actions and agreed with Judge Weeramantry's suggestion that religion could contribute to such action.

Judge Weeramantry himself emphasised the potential of the world's religions to play a catalytic role in responding to the environmental crisis. Discussing the different attitudes of Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and others, Judge Weeramantry argued that it was necessary to return to the earliest wisdom of the major traditions towards the environment, cultivating an ethos of harmony rather than exploitation.

Book Launch: Civilizational Dialogue and World Order: The Other Politics of Cultures, Religions and Civilizations in International Relations.

This book was launched by Prof Ghassan Hage, Future Generation Professor of Anthropology and Social Theory, University of Melbourne at the Australian Institute of International Affairs, on 25 August.

Lectures & Events

Book Launch: Conflict, Religion and Culture: Domestic and International Implications for South-East Asia and Australia.

This book was launched by the Honourable Laurie Ferguson, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services during a lunchtime function at La Trobe University on 24 July.

Special Issue Launch: *International Politics - The Islamic World Between Europe and the United States*

As a special event on the launch of this issue of the *International Politics*, the Centre for Dialogue, in conjunction with the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (University of Melbourne) hosted a lecture and conversation with Professor Farish Ahmad Noor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Associate Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh, NCEIS, Associate Professor Nick Bisley, La Trobe University and Professor Joseph Camilleri.

- *Political Discourse and the 'War on Terror'*, Islamophobia: Fear of the Other Conference, Monash University – 18-19 July 2009
- *Language Policy and the Dialogue of cultures*, 7th National Community Languages Schools Conference, Asia Education Centre, University of Melbourne – 27 June 2009
- *A Nuclear Weapons convention: Implications for Governance and Civil Society*, Research Workshop on Australia-Japan Civil Society Cooperation for Nuclear Disarmament Nautilus Institute, RMIT University, Melbourne – 18-19 September 2009
- *Faith and Violence*, Institute of Spiritual Studies Seminar, Melbourne – 29 August 2009
- *The Dialogue of Cultures and Climate Change*, Conference: the Power of dialogue in a Time of Global Crisis, The Toda Institute of Global Peace and Policy Research, Tokyo, 21-23 November 2009

Keynote Addresses

In 2009 Prof Camilleri gave a series of keynote addresses on a broad range of themes relevant to the Centre's work;

- *The Alliance of Civilisations: Implications for Asia Pacific*, Keynote Lecture at Symposium hosted by Soka University, 23 March 2009
- *Australia as a Secular Society: Its History and Impact*, Jewish Christian Muslim Association Annual Conference, Millgrove, Victoria – 6-7 July 2009
- Fethullah Gülen Chair Conference: From Dialogue to Collaboration: The Vision of Fethullah Gülen and Christian-Muslim Relations, Australian Catholic University – 16 July 2009

International Visitors & Seminars

Visitors

Hasan Hastürer

Columnist, Kibris (Cyprus)

6 March 2008

As part of its Cyprus Dialogue Project, the Centre for Dialogue hosted an informal conversation with visiting Turkish Cypriot journalist Hasan Hastürer. Facilitated by Dr Michael, members of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot diaspora discussed with Mr Hastürer the latest developments in Cyprus and likely prospects in forthcoming peace talks.

Dr Namrata Goswami

Dehli, India

April 1st - August 15th 2009

Dr Namrata Goswami was a visiting fellow from the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses in Delhi, India. Her chosen field of research is on ethnic conflicts and their resolution in the South Asia context. Her research at the Centre was under the title 'Inter-Cultural Dialogue and Multiple Loyalties Across Zones of Ethnic Conflict: the case of India and Burma'.

Professor Minyue Hou

August 10th

Professor Minyue Hou completed his PhD at La Trobe University with Professor Camilleri. He was an honoured guest on a visit to Australia who gave us a stimulating update on China's foreign relations in the region and with Australia in particular.

Eskander Moradi

University of Tehran

January to May 2009

Mr Moradi visited the Centre whilst completing his PhD on the geopolitical perspectives concerning Iran.

Seminars

- *Negotiating the Naga Nation: Six Decades of Deadlock*, Dr Namrata Goswami, Visiting Fellow, Centre for Dialogue
- *Chinese Foreign Relations in Australia and the Region*, Prof Minyue Hou, Visiting Scholar.
- *Euro-Turkish Relations and Cyprus*, Andreas Theophanous, Professor of Political Economy, Director Cyprus Centre for European and International Affairs, University of Nicosia
- *Turkey and the Kurdish Question: Recent Developments and Future Prospects*, Mr Özdal Uçer, Deputy of Van Province, Grand National Assembly of Turkey.
- *Syria, the Middle East and the World*, HE Mr Tammam Sulaiman, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Media

The Centre for Dialogue generated considerable media interest in its keynote event for 2009 – the Annual Lecture delivered by Rabbi David Rosen, as well as through the Visiting Scholars Program and the Young Muslim Leadership Program.

Below is a summary of the media coverage secured by the Centre for Dialogue in 2009.

The Visiting Muslim Scholars Program - Khatami

- Opinion piece by Joseph A Camilleri published in *The Age*, 16 Feb 2009. The article, entitle 'One Iranian Leader Worth Talking With' provided information on Khatami's achievements in the field of dialogue and highlighted the importance of his visit to Australia.
- Opinion piece by Daniel Flitton, diplomatic editor, published in *The Age*, 25 March 2009. This article was published on the same day Khatami spoke at La Trobe.
- News article by Barney Zwartz, published on the front page *The Age*, 18 March 2009. Article highlighted concern by the Jewish Community Council of Victoria over Khatami's visit.
- A response to this concern, written by Dr Phillip Freier, published in *The Age*, 19 March 2009. The piece entitled 'Dialogue Heals Division' emphasized the role of the Centre in bringing all parties together to foster understanding.
- Interview with Rafael Epstein on ABC TV's *Lateline*, 25 March 2009

Dr Farish Noor

- Article written by Dellaram Jamali and Hari Raj, published in *The Age*, 31 October 2009.
- Interview with Sen Lam on ABC Radio National's Asia Connect, aired 29 October 2009.

Leadership Training for Young Muslims

The announcement that the State Government would provide \$184,000 for the Centre's Leadership Training for Young Muslims in 2009 and 2010 featured in *The Age* (See Glen James, 'Networking', *The Age* (My Career section), Melbourne, 29 November 2008, p. 4).

Grants

During 2009 new grants were awarded to the Centre by:

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- The Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Ian Potter Foundation
- Besen Foundation
- Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria
- The Council of Australian-Arab Relations (DFAT)
- The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA)

Continuing grants were provided by:

- Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria
- ARC Discovery
- ARC Linkage
- Five City Councils
- 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, Prof Tim Brown, 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 Program.

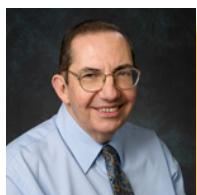
Financial Report

For year 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2009

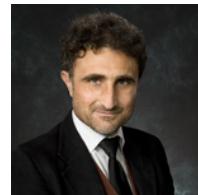
Revenue	\$
*ARC - Discovery Grant	148,639
*ARC - Linkage Grant	103,558
* Partner Organisations - Linkage Grant	36,200
La Trobe University	
- DVC(R)	50,000
- <i>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>	50,000
Department of Premier & Cabinet, Victoria	100,000
*Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	143,644
- Grant for various projects	
Consultancies	33,663
RIBG	13,907
IGS	10,745
Donations and other income	10,725
Total	707,781
Expenditure	
Salaries (including research infrastructure)	383,698
Administrative Overheads	163,593
Includes:	
- <i>Conferences, Symposia, Workshops, Seminars</i>	
- <i>Phone, Printing, postage, photocopying, stationery</i>	
- <i>Travel</i>	
Maintenance & Equipment	2,307
Sundry Expenses	4,223
Total	553,821

* These are project specific funds which will cover research and training costs in 2010, estimated at just under \$150,000

Staff in 2009



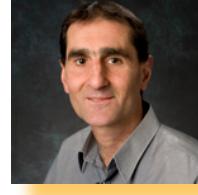
Professor Joseph A. Camilleri
Director, Centre for Dialogue
BA (Melb), MA (Monash),
PhD (London)



Dr Michális S. Michael
Research Fellow
BA (Sydney), MA (Sydney),
PhD (La Trobe)



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



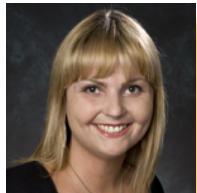
Dr George Myconos
Research Fellow (to Sep 2009)
BA (Hons), MA (Melbourne),
PhD (Monash)



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



Ms Charlotte Setijadi-Dunn
*Community Liaison & Education
Officer (from Nov 2009)*
BComm/BA (Hons), Monash



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



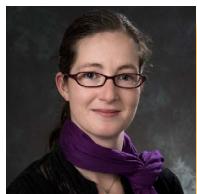
Ms Steph Matti
*Community Liaison & Education
Officer (to Nov 2009)*
BIR (Hons), La Trobe



Mr Aran Martin
*Research Assistant (to Aug
2009)*
BIR (Hons), La Trobe



Mr Nicholas Taylor
Research Assistant
BEc (Sydney), MA (Sydney)



Mrs Rebecca Fowler
Research Assistant
BA, Latrobe (current)

Centre Board

Board Membership

Chair: Hon Steve Bracks

Other Members:

Prof Dennis Altman AM
Prof Gary Bouma
Mr Mick Butera
Prof Des Cahill
Prof Joseph A. Camilleri
Dr. B Hass Dellal OAM
Senior Constable Ali Gurdag
Bishop Philip Huggins
Mr George Lekakis
Theo Mackaay
Mr Charles Mott
Reverend David Pargeter
Mr Erskine Rodan
Yasser Soliman
Ms Dalal Smiley
Mr Gary Thomas
Prof Spencer Zifcak