



Centre *for* Dialogue



AB09/77
10.06.09

La Trobe University Centre for Dialogue

2008 Annual Report

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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.

The Centre for Dialogue has just completed its third full year of activity. It has been an extraordinarily busy year in which several existing projects were consolidated and new ones established; and the number of staff rose from nine to eleven, although most of these were part-time or casual appointments.

Director's Report

The first priority has been to develop a high level of excellence in both theoretical and empirical research in the two key areas indicated in the Centre Overview. Particular emphasis is placed on maintaining a substantial publications profile, and mounting cutting edge exchanges and on-going institutional partnerships involving leading international scholars and experts.

A second priority, arising from the first, has been the transferring of knowledge, 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).

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

- Europe & Asia between Islam and the United States;
- Australia's Handling of Tensions since the September 11 2001 terrorist attacks;
- Dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations: Concepts and Prospects;
- Conflict, Religion & Culture: Implications for Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines;
- Dialogue in the educational context.

The following highlights are worth noting:

1. Three major international conferences organised by the Centre (in collaboration with international partner institutions) during 2006-2008 (the first at the University of Warsaw and the other two at La Trobe University) were at various stages of publication: two as Special Issues Global Change, Peace and Security and International Politics journals and the third as a book to be published by Palgrave Macmillan.
2. The three-year Dialogue Education project, funded primarily by the Victorian State Government, was completed. The project helped to place intercultural education squarely on the Secondary School agenda. A series of recommendations have been the subject of discussion with the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood.
3. The Young Muslims Leadership Training Programme, funded by the Victorian Government, entered its second year. In 2008, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade funded the participation in the Programme of five young Muslims from Southeast Asia. The 2008 Graduation Ceremony was held at Parliament House, where Minister James Merlino announced the Government's decision to fund the Programme for another two years.
4. Professor Camilleri delivered five keynote lectures on the teaching of languages other than English to Conferences of teachers and educators in Melbourne, Adelaide, Hobart, Brisbane and Canberra.
5. The Centre, in partnership with five local Councils, produced the preliminary report for the establishment of an Interfaith Intercultural Network in Melbourne's Northern Region.

6. The Centre completed an intensive one-year dialogue process on the Sri Lankan conflict involving key members of the Tamil, Sinhalese and Sri Lankan Muslim communities resident in Melbourne.

I take this opportunity to thank the dedicated contribution of all colleagues at the Centre for their skill and dedication. The Centre is deeply indebted to those who have contributed to the administrative arrangements of the Centre, in particular Christine Siokou, Craig Woolley and James Oaten. I also wish to acknowledge the valuable role of both the Board of Management and the Advisory Board. Elizabeth Proust, who has chaired the two Boards since the inception of the Centre, indicated that she would not be able to continue in this capacity beyond February 2009. We are all greatly appreciative of the enthusiasm, expertise and wisdom she has brought to the Centre in its formative years. We wish her well for the future, and greatly look forward to her continuing association with the Centre.

We are pleased to announce that the Honourable Steve Bracks, former Premier of Victoria and a strong supporter of the Centre, has agreed to take up the position as Chair of the Board of the Centre, beginning in February 2009.

In the interests of streamlining the organisation of the Centre, the Board of Management and the Advisory Board resolved that the two Boards should be replaced by a single Board, effective as of March 2009.



Joseph A. Camilleri
Director, Centre for Dialogue
Professor of International Relations
15 February 2009

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. Publication of the book is scheduled for early 2009.

In the second stage, PPIM-UIN Jakarta and the Centre for Dialogue jointly convened a second workshop in Jakarta (20-22 October 2008) entitled 'Developing Constructive Responses to Tensions in the Domestic and Regional Environment: Dialogue across the Cultural and Religious Divide'. This workshop focused on the opportunities for, and obstacles to, conflict resolution and dialogical strategies in each of the four countries and in the wider region.

Dr Anceschi and PPIM Director Dr Jajat Burnuhadin are currently exploring possibilities for publication of a selection of papers presented at the Jakarta workshop either in an integrated volume or as a special issue of a leading international academic journal. Australian participation in the Jakarta workshop was led by Prof Camilleri. Other members of the research team included Dr Anceschi, Larry Marshall from the Centre for Dialogue, Waleed Aly (Monash University) and Margaret Coffey (ABC Radio).



Jakarta Workshop (20-22 October 2008)

The visit to Jakarta included extensive discussions with leading Indonesian institutes and think-tanks, the Australian Embassy, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a range of Indonesian religious organisations.

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:

1. *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;
2. *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 2008, the Centre focused on the completion of the editorial process of 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) are the guest editors. The special issue is scheduled to appear in October 2009.

As part of the larger project, a research trip to the Middle East was the subject of intense planning during the year. Prof Camilleri, Dr Michael and Dr Anceschi are planning to visit six countries (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Syria and Israel) in 2009 with the assistance of the embassies of these six countries in Canberra. The two main aims of the trip are to receive detailed briefings by governmental and non-governmental agencies on the Israel-Palestine and other conflicts in the region, and to explore possibilities for the development and funding of research partnership with leading institutions in the region. A grant to assist with the funding of the trip has been received from the Council of Australian-Arab relations (DFAT).

Dialogue Diaspora

The Dialogue Diaspora projects (coordinated by Dr Michael and Prof Camilleri with the assistance of Aran Martin) aims to 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, and Jewish and Arab communities are currently under way.

Specifically the project aims to investigate the potential for dialogue in 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 relatively favourable environment for dialogical interaction;
- Assist the parties to identify areas of disagreement, mistrust or misunderstanding's 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 project is to identify the conditions that are conducive to the development of dialogical skills, attitudes and relationships, which can in turn enrich Australian multiculturalism and promote conflict resolution in the homelands of diasporic communities. The project, which is funded by the William Buckland Foundation for two years, commenced in 2008.

In its first year, the project was mainly chiefly occupied with the development of the **Sri Lanka Community Dialogue**, which was convened during a period of fierce fighting in Sri Lanka. The conflict is estimated to have killed 70,000 people and displaced thousands more.

Facilitated by the Centre, the year-long dialogue began with a consultation stage, lasting from December 2007 to May 2008. The information and feedback received during the consultation period played a crucial role in shaping the process, participants and arrangements for the dialogue, and will be critically important to the formulation of research findings.



Participants at the final dialogue session, following the issue of the joint statement on the Sri Lanka conflict.

The dialogue proper, which commenced in May, consisted of six intensive five-hour dialogue sessions held at monthly intervals. Participants at these sessions were selected on the advice of community facilitators and a carefully designed framework which balanced the demographics of the broader Australian Sri Lankan community and the requirements for a

constructive dialogue environment. During this period, due to confidentiality requirements, the Centre for Dialogue and dialogue participants agreed not to communicate details of either the composition or the content of the dialogue. This arrangement was designed to encourage a frank dialogue where participants could express their views vigorously and clearly in the knowledge that they were not meant for publication. It was left to the participants themselves to determine what outcomes, if any, they wished to communicate to a wider audience.

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 Dialogue is in preparation, with further articles to follow in 2009 and 2010.

In the second phase of the project, the focus will be on the Middle East conflict. 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 their relationships within Australia.

The project will consist of a series of intensive dialogues to be held in Melbourne during 2009. A number of preliminary consultations were held during 2008. The consultations, an intricate component of the process, are designed to refine the content and course of the dialogues to select some 30 participants representing a cross section of political views, religious and ethnic backgrounds, gender and age. A further consultation is scheduled for February 2009.

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, is 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:

1. Hosting training workshops for secondary school teachers and other education professionals aimed at promoting ideas integral to intercultural dialogue.
2. 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, Cleeland Campus of Dandenong High School, Catholic Ladies' College, Marian College, Coomoora Secondary College, Northcote High School.

2008 marked the third and final year of of the project. A follow-up project is currently in preparation.

Much of the year was spent evaluating and reflecting upon the workshops and professional development visits to schools that were conducted in 2006-2007. This included reviewing questionnaires and ongoing consultations with the project's Advisory Group. Much effort was devoted to research needed to prepare teaching materials that will enable teachers to employ dialogical perspectives and methods in the classroom.

In August, Dr Myconos was invited to make a presentation to the Ministerial Advisory Council on LOTE/ESL, at which he outlined the Centre's recommendations for education reform based on his experience coordinating the Education Dialogue Project as well as two projects which are under development. The report was received favourably and formally submitted to the Secretary of the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood. The Centre has subsequently received detailed responses to each of the recommendations.

Research outcomes so far include:

- A report entitled *Building on Diversity: The Role of Intercultural Dialogue in Education, Recommendations to Key Stakeholders*, was presented to the Ministerial Advisory Council on LOTE/ESL. This report was also distributed to a range of key stakeholders in government and education circles
- A series of teaching materials and guidelines prepared for release in 2009:
 - » An eight lesson teaching unit entitled 'Understanding Cultural Difference Through Dialogue'
 - » A manual entitled 'On Dialogue: In Theory and Practice';
 - » PowerPoint presentations for use by curriculum coordinators entitled:
 - Dialogue in Teaching
 - Teaching about Islam in the Classroom
 - Using a Dialogic Approach in Teaching VCE International Studies
 - Restorative Practices in Schools: From Behaviour Management to Relationship Management
 - Dialogue Through the Ideas of Robert Kegan
 - The Mediterranean: Crucible of Conflict or Site of Inter-Cultural Dialogue?
- A discussion paper on 'The Dialogue of Cultures, Religions and Civilisations, and the Implications for Education';
- A CD produced in the UK, entitled *Discover the Muslim Heritage: A Science Teacher's Resource*, has been summarised and annotated for use by teachers in Australia

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 (surveys, questionnaires, interviews and focus groups). 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 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.

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.

Improving Cultural Literacy through Dialogue and School Community Partnerships

This project seeks to establish the foundations in schools for improved intercultural communication and sensitivity through innovative forms of interaction within the Hume municipality. The project first reviews existing practices bearing on how schools and local communities cooperate, and then proposes, monitors and evaluates innovative approaches based on dialogue between schools and their local communities. The anticipated outcome of the project is enhanced interaction between students, teachers, schools, and the community leading to improved learning outcomes and greater social cohesion.

The groundwork for this project was laid in 2008, with research focusing on how school-community partnerships have developed in Australia, Britain and the United States.

A grant application has been submitted to the Scanlon Foundation for the abovementioned two year project entitled Schools-Community Partnerships in the Hume Municipality.

Leadership Training Programme for Young Muslims

This was the second year of the Leadership Training Programme for Young Muslims (April-July 2008). Coordinated by Larry Marshall and funded by the Victorian Government, the programme aims to empower young Muslim men and women and help them to reach their full potential as citizens and future leaders. This year's intake of participants comprised a group of twenty (between the ages of 18 and 33), who were chosen by interview, from fifty applicants.

The 2008 programme included study-tours in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne, where participants were given the opportunity to meet and talk with influential members of Australian society.

The programme was researched, prepared and delivered by the Centre for Dialogue in close collaboration with the Islamic Council of Victoria.



Young Muslim Leaders speaking with La Trobe University's Professor Robert Manne

In its second year of operation the programme was expanded to include six young Muslims from neighbouring Southeast Asian countries (Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines), who joined the last four weeks of the programme. Southeast Asian participation was funded by a grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Key elements of the programme included an introductory workshop (including guest presentation by Prof Robert Manne), participation in the ten-week course entitled 'Our World in Crisis?', taught by Professor Joseph Camilleri and Larry Marshall. This course aimed to develop a socio-political framework for understanding the national and global issues confronting Australia.

The Canberra study trip included:

- Tour of Federal Parliament and meetings with senior politicians from across the political spectrum;
- Meetings with religious, media and civic leaders;
- Visits to places of national significance.

The Sydney visit was hosted by the Australian Catholic University and Affinity Intercultural Foundation. Programme participants visited places of worship, and engaged in intensive dialogue on a number of themes relevant to religious belief and practice in an Australian context.

The Melbourne study tour included: a media workshop at the SBS studios; a luncheon hosted by the CEO of the National Australia Bank, Mr Ahmed Fahour; a session hosted by the Koorie Heritage Trust and the curators of the Immigration Museum; and a series of meetings with the Victorian community policing unit, the Islamic Liaison unit of the Federal Police, officers at the Moreland City Council, the Supreme Court of Victoria, The Age newspaper, and a range of multicultural organisations.

At the graduation ceremony in November 2008, the Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable James Merlino, announced State Government funding for the programme in 2009-2010.

Larry Marshall is preparing a research article examining the challenges confronting young Muslims in Australia in the context of the post-September 11 environment. This study will place the Australian experience in the context of development in other parts of the Western world. It will offer an assessment of the value of innovative training programmes of the kind developed by the Centre for Dialogue.

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

This three year project is led by Prof Camilleri and Dr Michael with the assistance of Janelle Cairns. 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, and Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Commission for Mission, and the Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre.

The aim of the project is to research and design a model for a dynamic and sustainable 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 the 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 (e.g. religious, media, sporting, education and welfare).

The network will coordinate, supplement and enhance pre-existing community based projects, and research and submit recommendations for the establishment of new framework(s) with a view to improving the project's objectives. In the light of this experience, consideration will be given to developing a model that could be applied to other regions in Australia and internationally.

The first and research intensive phase of the project occupied most of the activity in 2008. It comprised three main elements: a community consultation, focus groups and a questionnaire.

The **Community Consultation** was held on Tuesday 15 April at Coburg Civic Centre. More than 90 people from the partner councils and organisations, representing a cross-section of faith and ethnic communities, came together to define the current and potential future concerns of their communities and to identify

ways of better utilisation of energy, resources, knowledge and experience. Issues of social justice, problems confronting newly-arrived migrants, rifts within and between faiths, the challenges and importance of reconciliation, and the need to break down of barriers between communities of faith and the secular community, were reoccurring issues raised throughout the consultancy.



Participants at the Community Consultation at Coburg Civic Centre

The consultation highlighted the support for greater community advocacy, policy development and the establishment of a regional network which would remain rooted in the community through transparent leadership. Participants also identified community support as a means for dealing with wider issues, such as domestic abuse and environmental challenges.

A **questionnaire** was developed based on the concerns and issues raised at the community consultation, in close conference with the five city councils. The survey sampled 0.5 percent of the combined population of the councils. Each council administered 500 surveys to a random sample of the population while a further 625 surveys were administered through the Centre for Dialogue. These surveys targeted places of worship, community and ethnic organisations, service providers and professional associations.

The questionnaire was released on 23 June 2008 and was in the field for a period of three weeks. The Centre for Dialogue received 469 responses, a response rate of 14.5 per cent.

Eight **focus groups** were conducted between July and September 2008. Each of the five municipalities prepared an invitation list of faith and community leaders, service providers, educators and government representatives. A separate focus group was held at the Centre for Dialogue specifically for service providers. Over 700 invitations were sent throughout the region resulting in 87 participants.

The focus groups attracted high attendance from newly emerging migrant communities especially from Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The Christian and Muslim communities were the most widely represented, but smaller faith communities, such as the Baha'i, Buddhist, Assyrian and Chaldean faiths, also made enthusiastic contributions. High attendance also came from the police, migrant resource centres, community health workers and charity groups.

The focus groups failed to attract participation from some of the important parts of the community. Representation from the more settled Greek, Italian and Chinese migrant communities was low, as was attendance from those under the age of 25. Attendance from faith leaders was also relatively low, with most faith representation coming from community leaders and service providers. In an effort to gain a youth perspective, a focus group will be held in early 2009 with the Ethnic Youth Council at Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre.

The project then moved to its second phase: the design of the network. This has resulted in the first research output of the project, a report entitled *Interfaith and Intercultural Network in Melbourne's Northern Suburbs: Preliminary Report*. It outlines the Centre's preliminary findings and recommendations. The report is currently under review by the Centre, the associated municipalities and partner organisations. After a process of consultation involving the local councils and the communities a second report will be produced in early 2009.

Religion and Foreign Policy: 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 making has become one of the most vexing issues in international relations, nowhere more so than in the Muslim world. Combining a carefully structured theoretical model 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 purpose 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.

2008 was devoted to developing the conceptual framework of this project. In 2009 Dr Anceschi intends to submit a grant application to the MacArthur Foundation.

Resolving the Cyprus Conflict: Negotiating History

During 2008 Dr Michael brought this longstanding project to near 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 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 will be 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:

1. 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)
2. 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.

On the basis of this preliminary conceptual and historical framework, the study proceeds to identify the key features of international governance in the modern period; and to locate contemporary developments within this broader historical context.

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).

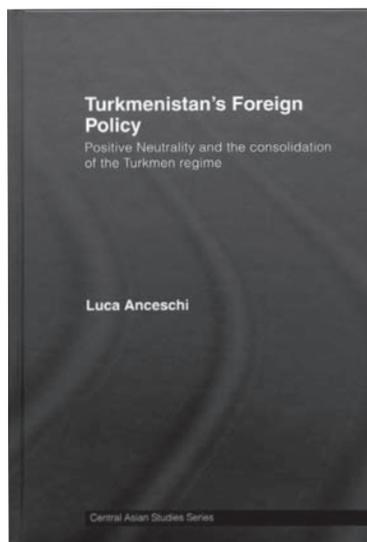
The emerging system of governance may be understood in terms of a series of attempts to reconcile the twin imperatives of singularity and plurality. The study investigates these attempts with reference to five critical arenas of governance (with appropriate case studies): international trade (intellectual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

This major study is to be published by Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, UK in 2009.

Publications

Books

Anceschi, Luca, *Turkmenistan's Foreign Policy - Positive Neutrality and the Consolidation of the Turkmen Regime*, Abingdon-New York: Routledge, 2008.



Edited Books

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

Michael, Michális S. & Petito, Fabio (eds.), *Global Empire or Dialogue of Cultures? The Politics of Cultures, Religions and Civilizations in International Relations*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009 (In Press).

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Camilleri, Joseph A., 'Citizenship in a Globalising World: The Role of Civilisation Dialogue', in Fred Dallmayr and Abbas Manoocherri (eds.), *Civilizational Dialogue and Political Thought: Tehran Papers*, Lanham MD: Lexington Press, 2007.*

Marshall, Larry, 'Religion and Conflict in Asia Pacific', in Korzeniowskej, Weislawy; Murzyna, Andrzej & Lukášovej-Kantorkevej, Hany (eds.), *The Importance of Religion to Intercultural Education*, Kraków: Impuls, 2008.

Michael, Michális S., with Petito, Fabio, '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).

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

* These two books appeared too late to be included in the 2007 Annual Report

Refereed Articles

Camilleri, Joseph A., 'The "War on Terror": Reassessing Rationale and Efficacy', in Hans Köchler (ed.), *The 'Global War on Terror' and the Question of World Order, Studies in International Relations*, Vienna: International Progress Organisation, 2008, pp. 58-84.

Camilleri, Joseph A., 'Europe between Islam and the United States: Interests, Identity and Geopolitics', *Global Change, Peace and Security*, Vol. 20, No. 1, February 2008, pp. 9-24.

Editorship of Academic Journal

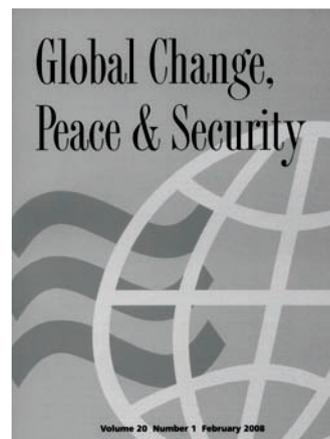
Global Change, Peace & Security is published by Taylor and Francis for the School of Social Sciences and the Centre for Dialogue at La Trobe University. It is an internationally peer reviewed scholarly journal that addresses the difficult theoretical and policy questions posed by the sheer scale and 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 2008, the Centre for Dialogue provided the core of the journal's editorial input. Dr George Myconos served as Editor of the journal and Aran Martin as Editorial Assistant. Prof Camilleri continued to chair the Editorial Committee.

In his capacity as Editor, Dr. George Myconos coordinated the publication of a Special Issue and a Special Section. Both of these were the result of research led by the Centre for Dialogue. Dr Michael and Cezary Milosinski guest edited the Special Issue 'Europe Between Islam and The United States' (published in February 2008). The Special Issue featured leading European and Australian scholars who examined the geopolitical and civilisational aspects of the relationship between Europe/the West and Islam, and as part of this the politics of ethno-cultural pluralism in Europe and Turkey's place in and relationship with Europe.

The special section, 'What Works and What Doesn't: New Directions in Conflict Intervention' was guest edited by Associate Professor Jake Lynch, Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney. Commissioned by the Centre for Dialogue, it brought together leading scholars and practitioners.

The Essay Prize (with prize money of AUD500) is a Routledge sponsored annual competition conducted by the journal with a view to attracting entries largely from postgraduate students. Articles must be between 6,000 to 8,000 words, and adhere to the journal's stylistic requirements. The winner of the 2008 prize was Joel Marks. His article, entitled 'Nuclear Prudence or Nuclear Psychosis? Structural Realism and the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons', will be published in a forthcoming issue of the journal.



'Europe Between Islam and the United States', Special Issue of *Global Change, Peace and Security*

Working Paper Series

The Centre's *Working Paper Series* is intended to provide the wider research community and practitioners an opportunity to contribute to an on-going and wide-ranging debate. The series examines the deeper roots of cultural, religious and political conflict and the contribution which the philosophy and method of dialogue can make to the resolution of conflict.

Three working papers were published in 2008:

1. Dodson, Patrick, 'Reconciliation: Two Centuries On, Is Dialogue Enough?', *Centre for Dialogue Working Paper Series*, No. 2008/1, La Trobe University: Melbourne, 2008.
2. Myconos, George, 'Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue in Education: A Case Study', *Centre for Dialogue Working Paper Series*, No. 2008/2, La Trobe University: Melbourne, 2008.
3. Kirby, Michael, 'People of the Book: Reconciling Religious Fundamentals with Universal Human Rights', *Centre for Dialogue Working Paper Series*, No. 2008/3, La Trobe University: Melbourne, 2008.

In 2008, the Centre revamped the design of its Working Papers Series. This included the printing of new front and back covers, as well as the reformatting of the papers' contents.



Working Paper by Patrick Dodson

Cutler Review

On 22 January 2008, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, announced a wide ranging review of Australia's National Innovation System to be conducted by an expert panel chaired by Dr Terry Cutler.

The Centre for Dialogue made a submission prepared by Prof Camilleri, Dr Michael, Dr

Myconos and Dr Anceschi. The submission proposed that the National Innovation System place greater emphasis on the humanities and social sciences, generally, and on intercultural and language studies in particular. The paper offered a model for the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence for Intercultural Policy Studies.

Connections: Newsletter of the Centre for Dialogue

Connections, the Centre's biannual 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. The 2008 series gave greater space to feature articles. The most noteworthy were:

- Michael Kirby, 'People of the Book: The Slow Path to Tolerance';
- Hilary Charlesworth, 'How Universal is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? The Future of Human Rights in the 21st Century';
- Michális S. Michael, 'Australia's Future in the Region and the World';
- Diane de Silva, 'Exploring the Effects of the Sri Lankan Conflict on Local Communities'.

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



Editions 3 & 4 of *Connections*.

Conferences

From the Middle East to the Asia Pacific: Arc of Conflict or Dialogue of Cultures and Religions? 30 June – 4 July 2008

The seventh annual international conference by the Globalisation for the Common Good Initiative was hosted by the Centre for Dialogue in association with Trinity College, the University of Melbourne, the Australian Catholic University and the Melbourne College of Divinity. The Conference was held at Trinity College.

Funding was received from the Victorian Multicultural Commission, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Besen Foundation and the Ian Potter Foundation, as well as from sponsoring institutions.

The Conference formed part of the Centre's larger research programme Europe and Asia between Islam and the United States. It brought together experts and practitioners to consider the role of religion in the Middle East conflict and the degree to which this contributed to the intensification or mitigation of the conflict. Theologians and religious leaders were asked to reflect on the implications of religious faith for the conflict in the Middle East and for the wider relationship between Islam and the West.

A special conference session, entitled 'Showcase Victoria: Multicultural Policy in Action' was organised to assess the effectiveness of activities conducted by Victorian government agencies and community groups that aimed to mitigate multicultural tensions and promote social cohesion. Particular attention centred on the role of religion, and the impact of tensions on relations with the Muslim communities of Victoria.



Judge C. G. Weeramantry (former Judge at the International Court of Justice) speaking with Centre Director, Professor Joseph Camilleri, and Founder of the Globalisation for the Common Good, Dr. Kamrad Mofid



Participants at the Globalisation for the Common Good Conference

The Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Krester, held a reception for Conference participants at Government House. A segment on the conference was aired on 'Newshour with Jim Middleton' on the ABC Australia Network (see p.21).

An editorial committee is currently reviewing the papers presented at the conference with a view to publishing a carefully integrated volume with a leading international publishing house.

Lectures, Seminars & Workshops

Annual Lecture

The Centre's third Annual Lecture was delivered by Professor Hilary Charlesworth, Australian Research Council Federation Fellow, Professor in RegNet and Director of the Centre for International Governance and Justice, Australian National University. The lecture was delivered on 2 October 2008 at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre.

The lecture marked the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Professor Charlesworth argued that the international human rights regime was in severe need of reform. She made the case that, on the one hand, human rights were continuously abused throughout the world, whereas on the other, the original declaration was now outdated. Professor Charlesworth defended the notion of 'universal' human rights, but insisted that human rights needed to be placed within their cultural context.

This year's Annual Lecture was co-sponsored by the City of Darebin, and chaired by Elizabeth Proust. Councillor Mendo Kundevski welcomed the audience on behalf of the Council.

An abridged version of the lecture was published in *The Age* and the event was recorded by SLOW TV, the online television service for *The Monthly* magazine (see p.21).



Professor Hilary Charlesworth (ANU) speaking at the Centre's Annual Lecture

Public Lectures at the University of Melbourne

In his capacity as Visiting Scholar at the University of Melbourne in the second semester of 2008, Prof Camilleri was invited by the Faculty of Arts to deliver two public lectures:

- In the Twilight of Empire: Rethinking America's Place in the World
Wednesday 17 September
Chaired by Professor Ralph Pettman
- Climate Change and the Dialogue of Cultures
Wednesday 8 October
Chaired by Professor Robyn Eckersley

Keynote Addresses

In a series of keynote addresses Prof Camilleri has called for a major upgrading of modern languages education in Australia and set out the crucial linkages between culture and language that must inform language policy at all levels of the educational system.

- National Seminar on Languages Education: Languages Open the Door to a Bigger World
Convened by DEST and the Asia Education Foundation, Melbourne, 29 November 2007.
- Languages Strategy Launch for School Principals in the ACT: Languages Matter, Canberra, 21 February 2008.
- Conference of Teachers of Italian, Adelaide, 12-14 June 2008.
- Modern Languages Teachers Association State Conference 2008, Hobart, 8 - 9 August 2008.
- Leading Language Education through Global Citizenship, Greater Brisbane Region Languages Education Conference, 13 October 2008.

National and International 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.

Professor Mathias Albert

University of Bielefeld, Germany

In collaboration with La Trobe University's Innovative Universities European Union Centre, the Centre for Dialogue helped to stage an important seminar with the eminent scholar, Professor Mathias Albert (University Of Bielefeld, Germany). Professor Albert spoke on 'Constructing another Europe or Europe's Other? British and German discourses on Turkey's EU accession'.

Claudette Werleigh

*Secretary General, Pax Christi International
25 September 2008*

Claudette Werleigh is the former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Haiti. She has also led several peace-building initiatives in war-torn societies including the Horn of Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2007 she was elected Secretary General of Pax Christi International.

Based on her experience as a displaced Haitian, Werleigh discussed the economic, social, and political relationship between diasporas and home communities and the history of Haiti-French relations, with particular reference to slavery and Haitian independence.

Professor Jon Johnson

*University of Oslo, Norway
25 November 2008*

In collaboration with the Innovative Universities European Union Centre, the Centre for Dialogue hosted an academic seminar by Professor Jon Johnsen (University of Oslo, Norway). Professor Johnsen has served as an adviser to the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and as a member of the International Legal Aid and Legal Services Group. He led a discussion entitled 'The Role of the Council of Europe's Commission on the Efficiency of Justice in the Integration of Human Rights in Europe'.

The Honourable Chris Carter

*Minister for Education, New Zealand
11 – 13 September 2008*

The Centre for Dialogue hosted an important delegation from New Zealand between 11 and 13 September 2008. Chris Carter, New Zealand Minister for Education and Ethnic Affairs, and a delegation including senior education advisors, were introduced to one of the Centre's partner schools, Northern High School, and to the Baha Yehia of the Preston Mosque. The Minister also met with the Federal Member for Calwell, Maria Vamvakinou, and the Centre's Director, Prof Camilleri.

The Centre for Dialogue generated considerable media interest in its two keynote events for 2008 – the Annual Lecture delivered by Hilary Charlesworth (see p.19), and the Globalisation for Common Good international conference (see p.18).

Below is a summary of the media coverage secured by the Centre for Dialogue in 2008.

Globalisation for the Common Good Conference:

- Opinion piece by Justice Michael Kirby published in *The Age*, 30 June 2008. This article was published on the same day of the official conference opening, and included an endnote which detailed how the general public could attend the official opening.
- Publication of the speech delivered by Justice Kirby on *ABC Online*.
- Coverage of the entire event by 'News Hour with Jim Middleton' on *ABC Australia Network*. The story included interviews with Rabbi Melissa Weintraub, The Most Reverend Dr Peter Carnley, and Professor Muddathir Abdel-Rahim. It was followed by an interview by Jim Middleton with Dr Ali Khoshroo.
- Additional interview by Jim Middleton with Dr Chandra Muzaffar on the controversy surrounding sodomy charges against Anwar Ibrahim and the recent history of Malaysian democracy.
- Interview with Dr Ali Khoshroo on 'The World Today' with Eleanor Hall on *ABC Radio National*.
- Interview with Chandra Muzaffar on the 'World View' programme, and Chaiwat Satha Anand on the Indonesian programme, on *SBS Radio*.

2008 Annual Lecture

- Opinion piece by Professor Hilary Charlesworth published in *The Age*, 2 October 2008. The article included a footnote that informed the general public on how to attend the public lecture.
- Interview by Philip Adams on 'Late Night Live' on *ABC Radio National*, about the future of human rights.
- Recording of the entire lecture by *SLOW TV*, the online television service of The Monthly magazine.

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.

Articles by Centre Staff

Michael, Michális S. 'Australia's Future in the Region and the World', *Neos Kosmos English Edition*, 21 April 2008.

Also published as:

- 'Australia's Future in the World' in *Pravda Online*, 12 May 2008, available at <http://english.pravda.ru/opinion/feedback/>
- 'Australia's Future Within Asia Pacific and the World', *The Jakarta Post*, 24 May 2008.
- 'Australia's Future in the Region and the World', *International Movement for a JUST World*, E-Newsletter, Vol. 8, No. 5, May 2008, available at <http://www.just-international.org/commentary/>

Grants

During 2008 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, and the School of Social Sciences.

Financial Report

For year 1 January 2008 – 31 December 2008

Income	\$
Centre for Dialogue General Fund	100,720.38
Includes:	
• \$50,000 from La Trobe University to be expended in 2009	
• Donations by Friends of the Centre	
• Conference Registration Fees and Other Income	
William Buckland Grant	64,150.00 ¹
Dept. of P & C - Young Muslims Project	174,876.51 ²
Dept. of P & C - CSF Project	113,000.00 ³
ARC Discovery Grant	55,155.00
VMC Conference	15,000.00
VMC Interfaith Network	20,000.00
DFAT	68,204.18
Linkage - ARC	67,643.00
Linkage - Partners	57,400.00
G. Myconos Values Project	12,509.09
Besen Family Grant	3,700.00
Ian Potter Foundation Grant	9,450.00
Total	761,808.16
<i>Income Available for 2008</i>	<i>602,658.16</i>
Expenditure	
Salaries	51,485.88
Administratvyive Overheads	143,308.39
Includes:	
Conferences (Travel, Accomodation, Catering, Etc)	
Printing, Postage, Telecommunications, Advertising	
Computer Supplies and Stationary	
Books	
Staff Training	
Other Catering	
Materials & Equipment	2,199.98
Occupancy	2,305.03
Sundry Expenses	9,438.19
Total	611,737.47

1 Funds to cover cost of project in 2009

2 Includes \$25,000 to cover expenses incurred in 2007

3 Half this amount will cover costs of project in 2009

Staff in 2008



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 George Myconos
Research Fellow
BA (Hons), MA (Melbourne),
PhD (Monash)



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



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



Mr Craig Woolley
Centre Manager
BSc (UTas), MIPS (La Trobe)



Ms Janelle Cairns
*Community and Education
Liaison Officer*
BA (La Trobe)



Mr James Oaten
Research Assistant
BIR Hons (La Trobe)



Mr Aran Martin
Research Assistant
BIR Hons (La Trobe)



Ms Roberta Buccomino
Research Assistant
Laurea (L'Orientale), MIPS (La
Trobe University)



Ms Christine Siokou
Administrative Officer
BA Hons (La Trobe)

Centre Boards

Board of Management

Ms Elizabeth Proust, Chair, Centre for Dialogue, Professor Joseph Camilleri, Director, Centre for Dialogue, The Honourable Kaye Darveniza MLC, Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, Right Reverend Philip Huggins, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne's Northern Region, Associate Professor Raj Pandey, School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Professor David de Vaus, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Associate Professor Spencer Zifcak, School of Law and Management, La Trobe University.

Board of Advisors

Mr Brian Ashen, Buddhist Council of Victoria, Ms Maxine Barry, Pax Christi Victoria, Professor Gary Bouma, UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific, Monash University, Associate Professor Di Bretherton, School of Behavioural Science, University of Melbourne, Mr Robert Burnham General Manager, Northern Hospital, Mr Mick Butera, Executive Director, NIETL/Northlink, Professor Desmond Cahill, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT, Mr Dennis Cliche, Chief Executive Officer, Yarra Trams, Ms Sushi Das, Features Writer, The Age, Mr Hass Dellal OAM, Executive Director, Australian Multicultural Foundation, Mr Hugh Evans, International Director, The Oaktree Foundation, Dr Rhonda Galbally AO, Chief Executive, Our Community, Dr Peta Goldberg, Head of School of Religious Education, Australian Catholic University, Mr George Lekakis, Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission, Adjunct Professor Charles Mott, School of Historical and European Studies, La Trobe University, Reverend David Pargeter, Commission for Mission, Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Mr Mathew Pinkney, Senior Journalist, Herald Sun, Ms Maureen Postma, General Secretary, Victorian Council of Churches, Mr Erskine Rodan, Immigration Lawyer, Erskine Rodan and Associates, Professor Abdullah Saeed, Director, Centre for the Study of Contemporary Islam, University of Melbourne, Mr Tony Schiavello, Managing Director, Schiavello Group of Companies, Ms Dalal Smiley, Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Mr Yasser Soliman, Council for a Multicultural Australia, Mr Malcolm Thomas, President, Islamic Council of Victoria, Mr Gary Thomas, Director, Indigenous Education, La Trobe University, Mr Simon Tisher, Multicultural and Interfaith Officer, Jewish Community Council of Victoria, Mr Steven Wojtkiw, General Manager and Chief Economist, Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Mike Zafiroopoulos, General Manager SBS Melbourne.