

Multicultural Futures Conference

22-23 September 2004

Conference Program

Wednesday 22 September 2004

9.00 - 9.30am Opening: Introduction and Conference Outline

To provide a background to the conference and its aims from the perspective of the three partner organisations.

Sir James Gobbo, Patron of the Monash Prato Centre and Chair, Australian Multicultural Foundation, Australia

Howard Duncan, Co-Chair, Metropolis Project, Canada

John Nieuwenhuysen, Director, Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements, Australia

9.30 - 11.00am Multiculturalism: Finding or Losing our Way? (1)

This discussion brings together some of the world's most renowned thinkers on the ideology of multiculturalism and interculturalism to consider how public policy should be guided in pluralistic societies in the 21st Century.

Chair: Sir James Gobbo, Chair, Australian Multicultural Foundation, Australia

Panel: Veit Bader, Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Graeme Hugo, Geographical and Environmental Studies, University of Adelaide, Australia

Will Kymlicka, Queen's University, Canada

11.00 - 11.30am Break

11.30 - 1.00pm Citizenship Education: The Key to An Active and Engaged Citizenry?

Public education has long been viewed as a vital site of social interaction across the diversities inherent in any society. As the training ground for future citizens, education systems are also frequently hotly contested zones of conflict between competing interests in society.

The structure of the systems themselves, the professional development of the staff, the representativeness of the staff and administration, the curricula, and the values and philosophy underpinning the education systems are all considered vital to the adequate preparation of future voting citizens. Similarly, there is a recognition that lifelong learning is

also integral to the development of informed and active citizens. This is especially true in societies with large-scale immigration programs - adult migrants do not go through the "levelling" institutions of public education systems, so alternative approaches need to be developed.

This session will explore how these battles have played out in different societies.

Chair: Conrad Gershevitch, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

Panel: Minelle Mahtani, New School, New York, USA
Simon Marginson, Monash University, Australia
Adriana Patiño Santos, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain
Lara Winnemore, Integration Branch, Citizenship and Immigration, Canada

1.00 - 2.00pm Lunch

2.00 - 3.30pm Policing in Diverse Societies

Community policing in culturally diverse societies is indeed challenging. Diversity in its many manifestations must be valued and nurtured as a social imperative. To this end, police must work in partnership with the community to achieve a safer and more secure environment. It is crucial for police services to understand, manage and be responsive to the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of its client base. Improving service delivery standards that are sensitive and culturally appropriate will improve community relations whilst developing mutual trust.

This session will provide an opportunity to discuss the growing challenges for operational police in managing diversity and for community representatives to share their experiences whilst examining opportunities, trends and programs that are innovative and pragmatic in building police/community partnerships.

Speakers will discuss four specific areas:

1. Police/community relations post September 11.
2. Hate crimes - and how to report racially motivated incidents.
3. Police and community partnerships and understanding the role of police and the law.
4. Young people and police relations.

Chair: Christine Nassrallah, Department of Canadian Heritage, Canada

Panel: Gerard Daniells, Australasian Police Multicultural Advisory Bureau, Australia
Hass Dellal, Executive Director, Australian Multicultural Foundation, Australia
Inger-Lise Lien, Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research, Oslo
Scot Wortley, Centre for Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

3.30 - 4.00 Afternoon Tea including welcome from Dr. Ambrogio Brenna, Minister for Economic Development, Regione Toscana

4.00 - 5.30pm A Seat at the Table: Are Newcomers Only to Be Seen and Not Heard?

The participation of citizens of diverse backgrounds in decision-making structures within a pluralistic society is an interesting bellwether of inclusion and integration in any given society. Poor representation is often seen as an indicator of exclusion of some citizens from the establishment and upkeep of the rules-of-the-game. This exclusion is particularly troubling as it allows inequities to flourish in other domains (i.e. employment and education).

Discussion will be framed around five primary questions:

- 1) How does political participation vary across pluralistic societies?
- 2) Does this variation have systemic explanations?
- 3) What approaches have been attempted to overcome these variations?
- 4) Have they worked?
- 5) What other areas need to be explored to ensure the full and equitable participation of all citizens in decision-making bodies?

Chair: Minelle Mahtani, New School, New York, USA

Panel: Karen Bird, Department of Political Science, McMaster University, Canada
James Jupp, Centre for Immigration and Multicultural Studies, ANU, Australia
Erin Tolley, Metropolis Project, Canada

8.00pm Conference Dinner

Thursday 23 September 2004

9.00 - 10.30am Multiculturalism: Finding or Losing our Way? (2)

Multiculturalism can be conceptualised in a range of ways – demographic reality, ideology, public policy, lived reality, or contested discourse.

The ideological, theoretical and philosophical have contributed much to the debate, particularly around the uneasy connections between liberalism and multiculturalism. More recently, interculturalism has re-emerged as a possible alternative to multiculturalism. How have governments responded? Is multiculturalism still the answer?

Chair: Howard Duncan, Metropolis Project, Canada

Panel: Jack Jedwab, Executive Director, Association for Canadian Studies, Canada
Stepan Kerkyasharian, Chair of NSW Community Relations Commission and
President of NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, Australia
Trevor Phillips, Chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, UK

10.30 - 11.00am Break

11.00 - 12.30pm Religion and Public Policy in Diverse Societies

Every society has policies shaping and controlling the expression of religion and the relationship between religion and society. Not every religion is allowed free access to the people. Not every religious practice is permitted even in societies claiming to offer freedom

of religion. Some argue in terms of consumer protection, others in terms of fundamental cultural values, and still others in terms of social solidarity or social capital. While the issues are global, the way they are managed is shaped by the culture and history of each society and state.

Chair: Paul Bramadat, University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Panel: Gary Bouma, Monash University, Australia
Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, ASMA Society, New York, USA
Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, Georgetown University, USA

12.30 - 2.00pm Lunch

2.00 - 4.00pm Moderated Panel: Does Multiculturalism Have a Future?

Chair: John Biles, Metropolis Project, Canada

Panel: Veit Bader, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Rainer Baubock, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria
Will Kymlicka, Queen's University, Canada