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Immigration detention, executive control, and punishment

Ms Amy Nethery - Research Assistant, Centre for Citizenship & Globalisation, Faculty of Arts and Education and Casual Academic, Institute of Koorie Education and School of International and Political Studies, Faculty of Arts and Education
Thursday 13 May 2010

Abstract:
The Australian constitution provides that immigration detention, as a form of administrative detention, cannot be punitive. A number of High Court cases have challenged the constitutionality of immigration detention on the grounds that the conditions of detention are in fact punitive. To date, the courts have not upheld these challenges. Yet a vast number of testimonies from former detainees claim that their experiences of detention were punitive. How should we respond to these testimonies? Should we dismiss them as being irrelevant, as the High Court has done, or can we use them to further our understanding of the social and political function of immigration detention? This paper explains why political scientists should take seriously the subjective experiences of immigration detainees.

Secessionist Movements in World Politics

Dr Costas Laoutides - Lecturer In International Relations, School of International and Political Studies, Faculty of Arts and Education
Thursday 27 May 2010

Abstract:
This paper introduces a preliminary discussion on the institutional structures of secessionist movements. Although there have been typologies of secessionist conflicts with regard to causes, ideology and resolution, the literature on secession so far has overlooked the structural character of secessionist movements. One of the repercussions of such an omission is that we often put under the same roof movements with different institutional structures that tend to reflect different approaches towards separatism. In addition, a study of this nature could reveal the process of deliberation and action by secessionist movements leading to specific political outcomes – especially apropos the use of violence and their envisaged solutions(s) to their claims.


Professor Boulou Ebanda de B'béri - Founding Director, Audiovisual Media Lab for the Studies of Cultures and Societies and Professor of Media and Cultural Studies, Department of Communication, University of Ottawa, Canada
Thursday 3 June 2010

Abstract:
This seminar explores the politics of representation in three specific film traditions: Australian, Canadian and South African. We shall practically trace and comparatively analyze the following key-topics: (1) Cultural history in Australian, Canadian and South African Cinemas; (2) Thematic similarities and differences in Australian, Canadian and South African Cinemas; and (3) The politics of multicultural representation in Australian, Canadian and South African Cinemas. Indeed, the seminar mobilizes several Cultural Studies perspectives, which shall allow us to investigate the process of cultural history, cultural memory and political representation in film, as well as to tackle the issues of colonial gaze and contemporary practices of identity. Though not a film theory seminar but rather a comparative analysis on the politics of representation in three distinct, multicultural cinemas, this seminar will allow us to understand how cultural identities and multicultural processes of representation are problematized in cinema and have become naturalized in these three film traditions.

Containing Iran: The Neo-Conservatives and the Obama Approach

Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh: Deputy Director, National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies, Melbourne University
Thursday 17 June 2010

Abstract:
When President Barack Obama made an offer of direct talks with the Iranian regime, he did not expect his offer to be interpreted as a betrayal of the democracy movement. But events following the June 2009 election, which has deepened internal rifts within the Islamic regime and have highlighted a clear schism between the regime and large sections of the population, have presented the Obama administration with a difficult choice. Talking to the regime could be seen as condoning its brutal crackdown on dissidents, while opting for sanctions could serve to bolster support for the embattled regime. Neither option is attractive or would advance US interests in Iran.

In-Between Days - Exploring Indigenous Articulation in Oceania

Dr Steve Tupai Francis - Movement Relations & Advocacy, Australian Red Cross, Australia and Visiting Fellow, Centre for Citizenship & Globalisation, Faculty of Arts and Education
Thursday 24 June 2010

Abstract:
In this paper I want to test the boundaries of the insider/outside dichotomy that is often assumed in the articulation of indigeneity and anthropology. I want to explore the debate that flows from this interaction with reference to the inevitable collision and collusion of authenticity, power and representation. Clifford (2001) once asked "How should differently positioned authorities (academic and non-academic, Native and non-Native) represent a living tradition's combined and uneven processes of continuity, rupture, transformation, and revival?" (Clifford 2001:480). Referring to my own experiences as a Tongan born in Australia, I want to explore how constantly moving "between" can offer possibilities for a more inclusive and collective Pacific anthropology.