



Centre **for** Dialogue
— A Centre of La Trobe University —

Announcing an international conference

The Politics of Empire and the Culture of Dialogue: Intellectual and Organisational Signposts for the Future

La Trobe University Melbourne — 12-13 December 2006

Since the designation of 2001 as the UN Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and the events of September 11 2001, dialogue has become a recurring and often controversial theme in international discourse. At a time of political turmoil and violence, critics have labelled the notion of inter-cultural dialogue as idealistic, naïve, rhetorical, and even dangerous. For its advocates, the dialogue of cultures, religions and civilisations offers one of the more promising contributions to public debate on how we diagnose the present and plan for the future.

If dialogue is an idea whose time has come, it is necessary to develop a clearer understanding of the nature of dialogue, its participants and stakeholders, and its likely contribution to the national and international agenda. Certainly, a much deeper analysis is needed to make the philosophy, method and practice of dialogue intellectually coherent and politically potent. This is the purpose of the international two-day conference organised by the Centre for Dialogue at the Bundoora Campus of La Trobe University on 12-13 December 2006.

The conference itself will have an innovative format. Leading international and Australian experts will form a round table at which they will engage in an intensive exchange on some of the most critical issues. Others who register for the Conference will have the opportunity not only to observe the dialogue from close up, but to participate with questions and comment at times specifically set aside for this purpose.

The Dialogue of Cultures, Religions and Civilizations: From Theory to Practice

Prof Fred R. Dallmayr, University of Notre Dame

Prof Ashis Nandy, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

Dr Chandra Muzaffar, International Movement for a Just World (JUST), Kuala Lumpur

Prof Majid Tehranian, Director, Institute for Peace and Global Policy Research (Tokyo, Honolulu)

Prof Wayne Hudson, School of Arts, Media and Culture, Griffith University

Prof Gary D. Bouma, UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific,
Monash University

Dr Philip Darby, Institute of Postcolonial Studies, Melbourne

The Relevance of Dialogue for 'World Order'

Dr Fabio Petito, SOAS, University of London & University of Oriental Studies "L'Orientale", Naples

Prof Desmond Cahill, Intercultural Studies, RMIT

Prof Manfred Steger, Globalism Institute, RMIT

Prof Toh Swee-Hin, Director, Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University

Dr Richard Shapcott, Department of Government, University of Queensland

Prof Joseph A. Camilleri, Director, Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University

Asia-Pacific: Crucible of Conflict or Dialogue of Civilizations?

Prof Zhang Longxi, Director, Centre for Cross-Cultural Studies, City University of Hong Kong

Prof Jon Goldberg-Hiller, Department of Political Science, University of Hawai'i

Dr Michael T. Seigel, Institute for Social Ethics, Nanzan University, Nagoya

PLUS CONFERENCE DINNER ADDRESS GIVEN BY INGA CLENDINNEN, DISTINGUISHED HISTORIAN AND RECENT AUTHOR OF QUARTERLY ESSAY#23 "THE HISTORY QUESTION - WHO OWNS THE PAST?"

SUPPORTED BY THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
For more information email: dialogue@latrobe.edu.au or phone +61 3 9479 1893