

MEMBERSHIP

How the Centre Works:

The Centre focuses on organizing four kinds of events:

1. *Annual and public lectures* by leading and renowned intellectuals and scholars, both here and overseas;
2. *Full day seminars* on the work and thought of such intellectuals with them present and working in conversation with a range of local interlocutors and discussants of their work;
3. *Half day seminars* on particular themes with invited speakers;
4. *Symposia and colloquia* in other cities either connected to the work of the journal or to international social theory and social science conferences.

The Centre has four fields of operation:

local - Bundoora and City campuses;
regional – especially Mildura Campus;
national (Curtin, Murdoch and University of Western Australia in Perth; Flinders University in Adelaide);
and international (in the past 12 months spanning three continents: Europe, Asia and North America but also New Zealand).

In all cases we are pro-active, working through our own international and national professional and intellectual networks, minimising overheads and resources and maximizing local-global connections and networks, and ensuring intensive face to face encounters.

The co-ordinating editors of the journal, *Thesis Eleven*, Professor Peter Beilharz and Dr Trevor Hogan, are the founding Director and Deputy Director of this Centre, respectively. As such they are also *Chair* and *Deputy Chair* of the *Board of Management*.

Ordinary Members of the Centre who are also on the *Board of Management* appointed by the Dean of the Faculty, include the Dean himself, Professor Roger Wales, as well as Professors Johann Arnason, Joel Kahn, John Carroll (as Associate Dean Research), and Robin Jeffrey (as Associate Dean International), and Ms Mary Reilly.

Student Members are Suzi Adams, Darrell Bennetts, David Freeman, Kirsten Henderson, Miriam Riley, and Karl Smith.

Associate Members are: Simon Marginson, Peter Murphy, David Roberts, John Rundell, and Vince Marotta.

Honorary Members are: Professor Joanna Bourke (London), Dr Luis David SJ (Manila), Professor Emeritus George Markus (Sydney), Dr Maria Markus (Sydney), Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki (Canberra), Professor Peter Newman (Fremantle), Professor George Ritzer (Maryland), Professor Emeritus George Seddon (Fremantle), Professor Emeritus Bernard Smith (Melbourne), Professor Keith Tester (Portsmouth).

OBJECTIVES

The Centre has nine main aims, as set out in its Constitution:

1. To encourage the development and application of social and political theory throughout the world through publishing and presenting material in printed and electronic form and through delivering educational workshops, forums and conferences;
2. To facilitate international exchanges of internationally recognised scholars in the field of social and political theory;
3. To attract overseas students to enrol in the Faculty's postgraduate programs in the field of social and political theory;
4. To encourage local postgraduate research culture and scholarly research in the field of social and political theory;
5. To promote *Thesis Eleven* as an international journal of social and political theory;
6. To significantly expand the opportunities for research in the field of social and political theory;
7. To promote the teaching and research activities of members of staff of the University in the field of social and political theory;
8. To promote the training of postgraduates in research in the field of social and political theory;
9. To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above aims.

ADMINISTRATION

The Centre is a small operation with limited resources and big ambitions. It runs on the entrepreneurial imaginations of its Directors and their colleagues in the journal. It depends on the goodwill of academic and general staff in the Sociology and Anthropology program in the School of Social Sciences. In particular we record our thanks to the initiative, drive and support of Mary Reilly (who administers the Centre's account) and her team of administrative staff, Barbara Matthews, Bronwyn Bardsley, Kathy Ward, and Elaine Young.

In July 2005, Tracy Lee was appointed to work one day a week as Project Officer for the Centre. Her appointment is funded by School and the Vice-Chancellor. We are grateful to her for her cheerful and unstinting efforts in attending to the details of event planning and logistics. The Centre also piggybacks on the resources of the journal office and in particular of the work of the two Production Assistants during this period, Suzi Adams (January to August, 2002) and Karl Smith (September, 2002-). The Directors of the Centre report regularly to the Editors' meetings of the journal and we are particularly grateful to our colleagues on the editorial team who are always imaginative, good humoured, generous-spirited and hard working.

The Centre does not have a separate budget as such. The modest funds associated with the Centre are kept (and earmarked) in the journal's La Trobe University operating account administered by Mary Reilly on our behalf.

We also wish to take this opportunity to express and record our appreciation and thanks for the enthusiasm, wise counsel and support of Professor Michael Osborne, the Vice Chancellor (who provided the Centre with a seeding grant and an annual vote), Professor Roger Wales, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Professor David de Vaus, Head of the School of Social Sciences, respectively. We thank the School for its consistent administrative, financial, and intellectual support and interest. This year the financial support has been increased to match the VC's vote, providing more resources for journal production, and to subsidise this report.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Bundoora:

Annual Lecture:

12th July: *'War & Violence, 1914-1975'*, Professor Joanna Bourke, Birkbeck College, University of London with Professor Robert Manne, discussant.

Seminars:

15th March: *'Futurism: Anticipating Postmodernism'*, Ilaria Riccioni, University of Rome "La Sapienza".

11th April: *'Back To Utopia?'*, Leela Gandhi, Peter Beilharz, Trevor Hogan.

5th May: *'A Long Way To The Top: reflections on Writing on Australian Rock Music'*, Clinton Walker (freelance writer).

2nd June: *'Global Trade Links - the impact of globalization on Melbourne's Port and transport system'*, Carlo Carli MLA, Member for Brunswick, Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure.

23rd November: *'Ideology In The Age Of Globalization'*, Manfred B. Steger, Professor of Global Studies, RMIT University.

5th December: *'American and Australian Universities'*, Craig Calhoun and Simon Marginson.

7th December: *'American Civilization'*, with Craig Calhoun and a panel (Altman, Beilharz, Hogan, Kirkby, Murphy, Walker), including the launch of Dennis Altman's *'Gore Vidal's America'*.

8th December: celebration of the twenty-fifth year of *Thesis Eleven* Journal. A good time was held by from 80 to 100 punters (see photos). A special thanks to our supporters especially to the following: Laurine Hurley and Susan North for the exquisite food and for organizing the drinks orders, Mildura Brewery (thanks Stefano de Pieri and Donata Carazza) for supplying the best beer, Beilharz Brothers Band and Chris Wilson and the Spidermen for giving irrefutable reasons to dance, and to Craig Calhoun, Suzi Adams, Luis David, and others for their kind words about the journal.

Delhi:

4th -15th December 2004

The Centre organized a series of events entitled *Australia and India: Cities, Nation-States, Alternative Modernities, Civilisations?* in New Delhi. The 10 day schedule included a formal reception at the Australian High Commission, three public lectures, three seminars, one specialist two-day colloquium, two field trips and three formal bilateral university meetings and discussions. These events involved 5 host Universities (Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Jamia Millia Islamia University, TERI Institute of Advanced Studies), and 2 leading Indian publishers (Sage and Oxford University Press).

The 18 person delegation from La Trobe University consisted: four of the *Thesis Eleven* team: (Johann P. Arnason, Beilharz, Hogan and Karl Smith); seven other La Trobe Academics (Professor Roger Wales (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences), Professor Robin Jeffrey (Politics); Dr Leela Gandhi (Post-Colonial Studies and English program); Dr Sanjay Seth (Politics); Dr Brian Furze (Sociology and Anthropology, Albury-Wodonga Campus); Dr Corinne Manning (Australian Studies); Dr Raj Pandey (Asian Studies); Dr Anita Ray (Asian Studies); Ms. Tracy Lee (Administrator, International, FHUSS); and five postgraduate and post-doctoral researchers (Assa Doran; Maxine Loynd; Michael Hallpike; Madelaine Healey; Nalin Mehta).

The three public lectures were delivered by Peter Beilharz '*On Australia, or the two nations*' (hosted by the Australian High Commission at India International Centre), Leela Gandhi on '*Ahimsa, and other Animals: A Genealogy of an Immature Politics*' (hosted by Hindu College, Delhi University) and Johann Arnason on '*Understanding Inter-Civilisational Encounters*' (hosted by Sage India Publishers at the IIC).

There were two seminars held at JNU, the first co-hosted by the Centre for the Study of Social Systems and the School of International Studies, and the second hosted by the School of English Language and Literature Studies which has a special Australian Studies stream.

The two day invitation-only colloquium was held at Neemrana Fortress-Palace, Rajasthan. Participants from Delhi included: Dr Brinda Bose (Literary and Cultural Studies, Delhi U); Priti Singh (International Studies, JNU); Professor Abdul Nafey (Director, International Studies, JNU); Professor Rajeev Bhargava (Political Theory, Delhi U); Professor Rangachari Narayanan (International

Studies, JNU); Professor Dipankar Gupta (Social Theory, Director, CSSS, JNU); Dr Nivedita Menon (Politics, Delhi U); Dr Devesh Vijay (History, Delhi U); Dr Shuddhabrata Sen Gupta (SARAI). We also were honoured to have a participant from Canada in the person of Professor Charles Taylor (Philosophy, McGill University). We thank Professor Bhargava for making this link possible.

Manila:

13th-17th June:

To mark the 9th Anniversary of *Budhi: a journal of culture and Ideas* the journal editor, Dr Luis David, SJ, (Philosophy, Ateneo de Manila University) invited a team from *Thesis Eleven* to join in a series of activities including a two day Colloquium entitled: '*Asian and Antipodean Modernities: Civil States, Plural Nations, Global Diasporas*'. The *Thesis Eleven* journal Co-ordinating Editors, gave three public lectures at the Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights Campus:

'South-east Asian Cities', Trevor Hogan

'Asian Cities – Megapolis and Technopolis', Peter Murphy

'North American Critical Theory– the Last 50 years', Peter Beilharz

The 8-member delegation from *Thesis Eleven* consisted of Dr Trevor Hogan and Professor Peter Beilharz (Sociology, La Trobe University), Associate Professor Peter Murphy (Monash University), Adjunct Professor Charles Mott, Professor Stephen Turner (Social Philosophy, University of South Florida), Ms Miriam Riley and Mr Darrell Bennetts (both postgraduates in Sociology, La Trobe University), and Mr Clinton Walker (freelance writer, Sydney).

Melbourne-Christchurch

23rd-24th April:

The Inaugural Workshop meeting of New Zealand and Australian teams working on parallel Antipodes projects was held in Melbourne. The Melbourne team was represented by Peter Beilharz, Lloyd Cox, Trevor Hogan, Darrell Bennetts, Miriam Riley, Kirsten Henderson, Robyn Mitchell, and Brigid Magner. The New Zealand team included Philippa Mein Smith, Peter Hempenstall, Shaun Goldfinch, and Shelley Harford.

Meeting two will take place on the Anzac weekend of April, 2006 in Christchurch.

Mildura

14th May:

The Dean's Lecture: '*Conversations on the Antipodes*' Professor Ihab Hassan (Comparative Literature, Milwaukee) and David Malouf (historian, novelist and poet, Sydney).

15th May:

'*Sustainable Regional Development: Stories from Western Australia and NSW*', Professor Peter Newman, Director, Institute of Sustainability and Technology Policy, Murdoch University, Chair of the Western Australian Sustainability Roundtable advising the Premier on implementing the Sustainability Strategy which he wrote while on secondment from 2001-3. Since 2004 he is also a Sustainability Commissioner in NSW. Panel discussants included: Donata Carazza, Ian Hamilton, Kim Steinle and Peter Douglas.

Singapore:

9th-11th June:

The 6th Annual Conference of the International Social Theory Consortium, hosted by Sociology Dept, National University of Singapore and co-organised with *Thesis Eleven*. Over 100 people attended the conference of whom nearly a quarter of the participants were *Thesis Eleven* folks. We also assisted the Sociology Department, NUS in nominating sponsored participants from South, Southeast, and East Asian universities. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the hard work and gracious hospitality exercised by the NUS organizing team, especially Professors Habibul Haque Khondker and Hing Ai Yun, and their administrative team led by Ms Jane Ong. Plenary keynote presentations were given by Professor Bryan Turner (Asian Research Institute, NUS), Mr Clinton Walker (Sydney) and Mr Kean Mun Wong (Canberra and La Trobe).

Tralagon/Churchill:

9th and 10th October:

Peter Murphy (a Co-ordinating editor of *Thesis Eleven* journal) hosted a two day national colloquium on '*City, Society and Self: on the Chicago School of Sociology*' sponsored by the School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences, Gippsland Campus, Monash University. Peter Beilharz, Beryl Langer, Peter Murphy and Trevor Hogan gave papers at this event, along with Craig Browne, Harry Ballis, Eduardo de la Fuente, and David Holmes. We anticipate a return conference in 12 months time on

Chicago and NY as mirror cities, and to the publication of the papers given in October.

Honorary Doctorate Award:

5th December:

Professor Craig Calhoun was conferred the Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*). Professor Calhoun is one of the leading sociologists in the USA and in the world today. Since 1999 he has been President of the Social Science Research Council in New York, which has been the leading independent social science research body in the USA for 80 years. His publications include *The Question of Class Struggle* (1982), *Neither Gods Nor Emperors* (1994), *Critical Social Theory* (1995), *Nationalism* (1997) and forthcoming volumes on *The Radicalism of Tradition* (Chicago) and *Pierre Bourdieu* (New Press). He has also published dozens of articles across sociology and history, and a string of prominent edited volumes including most especially *Habermas and the Public Sphere* (1992), *Bourdieu: Critical Perspectives* (1993), *Social Theory and the Politics of Identity* (1994), *Understanding September 11th* (2002), and now *Lessons of Empire?* (2005).

Professor Calhoun studied Anthropology in the University of Southern California and Columbia. He took an MA in Anthropology from Manchester, and a D.Phil from Oxford in Sociology and History. From 1977 to 1996 he held various posts at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 1996 he became Professor of Sociology and History and then University Professor of Social Sciences at New York University.

Thesis Eleven Issue No. 84, February 2006 is a special issue on the work and thought of Craig Calhoun.

PROJECTS:

Introductory Text on Australia:

Relocating Sociology: Place, Time, Division. Melbourne: Oxford University Press. The Centre Directors have designed, developed and edited a new textbook that focuses on Australia in comparative and historical perspective. There are 80 short chapters organized by theme and topic with a strong emphasis on narrative and substantive interest rather than by abstract theory, scientific method or classical theory. There are over 70 different contributors including sociologists, anthropologists, historians, environmental scientists, and literary figures, political and social journalists and freelance writers. Part One on Place emphasizes geography such as Beaches, wilderness, suburbia, cities and regions. It does this with chapters on regional neighbours in the Pacific, New Zealand, and Southeast Asia. Part Two Time focuses on the creativity and reproduction of culture in everyday and public cultures, and across different time spans in Australia. Part Three picks up the traditional social science concerns of social power by focusing on divisions of social inequality, marginalization, and social conflict. This part concludes with discussions of the ways public institutions and policies try to address these divisions. While the immediate market is first year university courses in Australian Studies and the social sciences, the book is also designed to be of interest to the general reader, and to second and third year students in humanities and social sciences programs.

We thank our project managers Dr Glenda Ballantyne (2004) and Ms Miriam Riley (2005), and the OUP staff.

The book is due out in May, 2006, in time to be used in first year sociology courses in second semester, 2006. We hope the book will be useful in multi-disciplinary and international Australian studies undergraduate teaching settings.

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC) GRANTS PROJECTS:

'Jean Martin and the Social Sciences in Australia' (2004-2006)
Chief Investigators: Peter Beilharz, Trevor Hogan and Sheila Shaver

Professor Sheila Shaver (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, The University of Western Sydney), joined Peter and Trevor as third Chief Investigator of the Project. We are delighted that she has found time to join this research project. Professor Shaver is not only a leading sociologist and renowned social policy analyst but was a friend of Jean Martin's, as colleague on the Henderson surveys and inquiries

into poverty in the 60s and 70s, and as a doctoral student under Martin's supervision. This year witnessed the employment of a number of postgraduates as research assistants working on specific areas of the larger research themes. We thank Ashley Davis, Kirsten Henderson, and Amanda Watson for their research work, and Karl Smith for administrative support.

28th October: '*Jean Martin and the Social Sciences in Australia*' a workshop at La Trobe University with presentations by Peter Beilharz, Sheila Shaver and Trevor Hogan. Katy Richmond and Greg Denning provided personal reminiscences followed a plenary session during which current and past staff members at La Trobe University provided their anecdotes and reflections on Jean Martin, her themes, and her impact on their professional and research work, and on the foundation and development of Sociology and the Social Sciences at La Trobe University from 1964 to 1980.

24th November: '*Jean Martin and the Social Sciences in Australia*', paper given by Peter Beilharz, Sheila Shaver and Trevor Hogan to Sociology Dept, The University of Queensland.

'Antipodes: ARC project' (2004-2006)

Chief Investigator: Professor Peter Beilharz

Post-Doctoral Researcher: Dr Lloyd Cox

Doctoral Research Student: Mr Darrell Bennetts

The *Thesis Eleven* Centre team met with the Christchurch 'Australia' New Zealand team for a two day seminar over Anzac Day weekend (as reported above). Lloyd Cox, now based at Macquarie University, Sydney, worked towards his book *Altered States* for the project.

Darrell Bennetts commenced his doctoral work on the pioneer New Zealand intellectual, William Pember Reeves, from Melbourne and Wellington. Beilharz and Cox finalized a paper on Australia and New Zealand nationalism for the *Handbook of Nations and Nationalism* edited by Gerard Delanty and Krishan Kumar (Sage) , and presented papers on these subjects in Singapore and Manila in June.

Activities of the Directors:

Peter Beilharz visited the United States in August-September. He delivered a paper on Jean Martin and Australian sociology to the Plenary of the History Section at the Centenary of the American Sociological Association in Philadelphia, 13-16 August. He met in Philadelphia with Jonathan Van Antwerpen, George Ritzer, Andy Abbott, Chris Rojek and others and discussed future collaboration with Loic Wacquant and Neil McLaughlin, and a book project, *Socialism and Modernity*, with the University of Minnesota Press. He visited New York City, for further collaboration with Craig Calhoun, and New Haven, with Jeffrey Alexander, and Frederic Van Den Berghe. He visited Orlando Patterson and Janet Hatch at Harvard, Cambridge, Ma., and conducted archival research on Jean Martin at the University of Chicago. Peter worked with George Ritzer as Politics sub-editor for the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, and finalized the production of *American Critical Theory* (four volumes) through the Centre for Sage. With Professor Robert Manne, Beilharz developed the new project, *La Trobe Essays*, set for 2006.

Trevor Hogan revisited Delhi for ten days in April to follow up on the initiatives and developments of the December 2004 events, and will return again in January, 2006. He has successfully initiated a proposal to establish a Visiting Teaching Fellowship in Australian Studies at JNU, to be funded by Australia-India Council (AIC) and administered by a joint committee of JNU and La Trobe representatives. The position is an annual chair for 4 to 6 weeks, open to any scholar working in an Australian university with interests in Australia. The Visiting scholar is expected to teach Australian Studies graduates in either of the humanities or social sciences streams at JNU. Hogan also gave a broadcast (and recorded) lecture on 'Australian Cities' to Australian Studies graduates at IGNOU. He was a key organizer of the ISTC Singapore and Budhi-*Thesis Eleven* events in Manila in June. With Peter Murphy, with whom he is co-authoring a book on Asian Cities, he subsequently visited Manila and Vigan in June, and Japan in August.

FORTHCOMING VISITS in 2006:

March 24-31: JEFFREY ALEXANDER (Yale)

July 3-7: MARIA PIA LARA (Mexico City)

September: ORLANDO PATTERSON (Harvard)

THESIS ELEVEN IN MILDURA:

March: with Jeffrey Alexander

July: at the Writers' Festival: presenting 2 sessions: '*On Writing the Regions*'; '*To Edit*' with Beilharz and Hogan (*Thesis Eleven*), Peter Rose (*Australian Book Review*) and Ivor Indyk (*Heat*)

September: 'After the Flood' – 50 years on from the great 1956 Flood – a series of public events organized by Murray-Darling Basin Palimpsest with *Thesis Eleven* Centre for Critical Theory. Special guests to be advised.

***THESIS ELEVEN* CENTRE FOR CRITICAL THEORY**

ANNUAL LECTURES

2002 BERNARD SMITH

2003 GYORGY MARKUS

2004 TESSA MORRIS-SUZUKI

2005 JOANNA BOURKE

2006 MARA PIA LARA (forthcoming)