In late June GAI hosted a two-day workshop on Central Asia and Xinjiang into the 21st Century. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the September 11 incidents of 2001 the region has been assailed by a multiplicity of influences that have impacted significantly upon the internal development of the Central Asian republics and Xinjiang, as well as on the interrelationships among the various republics and Xinjiang.

The workshop examined the historical development of Central Asia and Xinjiang; the directions of economic, political, social and cultural developments in the region; and the international relations of the region, in particular the views from Russia, China and the United States. Although there was much necessary attention given to historical matters, the main focus was contemporary times, as indicated in the title of the workshop ‘into the 21st century’.

Most speakers were Australian, including specialists from the Australian National University, Monash University and the University of Southern Queensland. There were also several international scholars, including academics from the region, notably Professor Ablet Kamalov from Almaty in Kazakhstan. The noted historian James Millward from Georgetown University in the United States has published several books on the history of Xinjiang and Central Asia and contributed a paper to the workshop. Another international participant was Geoff Watson from Massey University in New Zealand. Several participants were invited who did not give papers.

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The papers and discussion ranged widely over the contemporary states that make up Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and even Turkmenistan. As the title implies, the Xinjiang region, a part of China, occupied a good deal of time as well. Indeed, one of the most interesting and important overall themes to emerge from the workshop was how to analyse Xinjiang affairs in relation to Central Asia. One paper was very firm that there were currently few signs of integration in the region, but a state of interdependency. Another theme was how to evaluate the importance of the Central Asian region in the present world. Hardly a ‘pivot’, as the distinguished scholar Owen Lattimore once described Xinjiang, Central Asia does appear much more important in world affairs than it was before the fall of the Soviet Union.

Discussion was lively at all times, with all participants coming firmly to grips with the major issues the Central Asian region currently raises. Since this was a workshop, not a conference, all sessions were in plenum. This raised the level of debate and prevented discussion from becoming dispersed.

The focused nature of discussion made the workshop contributions suitable for an edited book. Workshop convenors Professor Colin Mackerras and Dr Michael Clarke, both from GAI, are working on an edited volume of papers presented at the workshop with a view to publication in the reasonably near future.
A Special Relationship

Former Australian Governor-General, the Honourable Mr Bill Hayden, AC, delivered the keynote speech at a jointly hosted conference in early July entitled, “The Other Special Relationship – The United States and Australia at the Start of the 21st Century.”

Mr Hayden was joined by other guest speakers including the Australian’s Editor-at-Large, Mr Paul Kelly, GAI Director Professor Michael Wesley, Professor Douglas Stuart from Dickinson College and retired Major-General Duncan Lewis at the three day workshop and public conference held in collaboration with the Griffith Asia Institute, the Australian National University, the US Army War College and Dickinson College, Pennsylvania.

The four-part conference program addressed separate aspects of the United States-Australia relationship including foreign policy issues, political and legal aspects, economic and business aspects, and security and defence. Papers around these issues, one from an Australian perspective, one from an American perspective, were workshopped at an initial meeting held in March 2006 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. The Brisbane workshop, held over the first two days, examined in more depth the issues canvassed in March. Day three of the conference moved to the Australian College of Defence and Strategic Studies in Canberra where the outcomes of the previous discussions were reviewed and discussed at a public conference. As Mr Hayden commented in his opening address, “Conferences like this are essential for the relevant concepts they can develop and for preparing the public for the sort of engagements into which Australia might be drawn.”

Papers from the conference will be published as an edited volume later this year.

Perspectives: Asia

The Queensland Art Gallery continues to provide the perfect backdrop for the collaborative Perspectives: Asia series of public seminars. April gave us Associate Professor David Reeve and his humorous insight into political cartoons and their reflection of Indonesian-Australian relations. The audience enjoyed a visual history of political cartoons depicting the perceived relations between Australia, Indonesia and other Asia Pacific countries at the time. Associate Professor Reeve commented on the continuities of themes and characters in the cartoons over the years that also depicted our changing views about our Asia Pacific neighbours.

On 18th May, the Griffith Asia Institute, in collaboration with the Qld Art Gallery also hosted an address by the Right Honourable Sir Rabbie Namaliu CSM KCMG MP, Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration (pictured left). In his address, entitled “Papua New Guinea and Australia – The Way Forward”, the Minister offered some ideas on how Australia and Papua New Guinea can work together more closely and constructively for their common good and for that of the region. Sir Rabbie Namaliu touched on the various relations of the 2 countries, including the political, business and investment relationships but focused on the importance and strengths of the people to people relationships. His hope for the future was for a more informed understanding of Papua New Guinea and a view that Papua New Guinea is a country of both enormous challenges and opportunities. A full transcript of the seminar can be found on GAI’s website.
Dissident Democrats Under the Microscope

July also featured the first workshop under the umbrella of the new Security, Democracy and Public Policy research program. The workshop focused on the theme of Dissident Democrats: The Challenge of Democratic Leadership in Asia and was held over two days at Brisbane’s Saville Hotel.

Guest speakers from the Griffith Asia Institute, the Centre for Governance and Public Policy, and around the world presented papers on various dissident democratic leaders in Asia and their role in the transformation of their nations towards democracy. Discussions ranged across the larger political, institutional and historical framework within which the dissident leaders exercised leadership. The countries and leaders canvassed included Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Burma, Cambodia, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore and Thailand. The choice of these countries allowed an understanding of the relationship between dissident leaders and unique institutions, as well as discerning how cultural, religious and ethnic differences may influence dissident democratic leadership. It is hoped the Asia experience will yield lessons and insights that may have implications for emerging democracies in other parts of the world, from Eastern Europe, to Africa and South America. Workshop convenors, Professor John Kane, Associate Professor Haig Patapan and Benjamin Wong will publish an edited volume emanating from the papers presented at this workshop.

Member News

Professor Tony Makin has been re-appointed as a member of the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council - Australia (AUSPECC) until the end of 2007. Professor Makin also presented a Keynote Address at the 2006 New Zealand Association of Economists Conference in Wellington on 30 June entitled “Interpreting External Imbalances: Theory and Policy” and a plenary session paper entitled “China’s Growing Trade Surplus: Causes, Consequences and Policy Implications” at the Association for Chinese Economic Studies (Australia) Conference on Emerging China: Internal Challenges and Global Implications, Victoria University, Melbourne, 13-14 July. The Australian Financial Review also published an op Ed entitled “Everyone wins with more flexible yuan” on 23 May.

Associate Professor Julia Howell was one of four non-Muslim scholars from around the world invited to present papers at the Second International Conference of Islamic Scholars in Jakarta, Indonesia, between 19 and 22 June, 2006.

Former Australian diplomat Reg Little recently spoke about his new book, A Confucian-Daoist Millennium?, at a Griffith Asia Institute research seminar. The book explores the different characters of Eastern and Western cultural traditions with particular emphasis on their contrasting customs in medicine, science, thought and political and economic strategy.

Mr Little served in the Australian diplomatic service from 1963 to 1988 and has been invited to speak at a number of international conferences on the Confucian tradition and its role in economic development. In 1994, Mr Little became a founding director of the Beijing based International Confucian Association. He also has been active as an international business consultant and was a member of the Australia-China Business Council delegation to China in 2000.

A Confucian-Daoist Millenium? (ISBN: 0-9758015-5-4) is published by Connor Court Publishing (sales@connorcourt.com.au); 276 pages.

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Recent Publications from Griffith Asia Institute Members

**PROF MICHAEL WESLEY**

**DR MICHAEL HEAZLE**
- Michael Heazle and Nick Knight have both contributed to the introduction and a chapter in: (eds), China-Japan Relations in the Twenty-First Century: Creating a Future Past (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar; forthcoming 2007).

**DR MOAZZEM HOSSAIN**
- "Globalisation and the Asia-Pacific: Contested Perspectives and Diverse Experiences"

Edited by Iyanatul Islam and Moazzem Hossain, Griffith Asia Institute & Griffith Business School Publisher: Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA, 2006

This volume has been published out of a workshop on the benefits and costs of globalisation held under the auspices of the Griffith Asia Institute (then the Griffith Asia Pacific Research Institute) of Griffith University in mid-February 2003. The collection of essays in this volume illustrates contested perspectives on globalisation represented by the diverse experiences of selected economies within the Asia-Pacific region, namely Australia, China, India and Sri Lanka as case studies.

The book begins by studying the nature of disagreements among economists on the benefits and cost of globalisation, highlighting ways in which one can consolidate the gains from globalisation while mitigating its costs, offering a critique of macroeconomic conservatism and discussing the promises, pitfalls and perils of foreign direct investment. The contributors then go on to anchor global debates in regional and country specific circumstances.

The issues discussed range from broad political economy perspectives to industry case studies but all are united by concerns about socio-economic disparities in an age of globalisation.

Contributors include scholars from Griffith and other institutions (UQ, DFAT and ILO). Contributors are: I Islam (GBS), B Berne (DFAT), J Quiggin (Economics, UQ), M Muqtada (ILO), B Bishop (GBS), L Liew (GBS), Moazzem Hossain (GBS), C Didelon (Geographie-Cite, Paris), J Bandara (GBS), A Naranpanawa (GBS) and T Conley (GBS).

**PROF NICHOLAS KNIGHT**

Since the concept of globalisation first appeared in the discourse of the Chinese Communist Party in the mid-1990s, there has been amongst Party theorists growing interest in and debates about globalisation's conceptual precursors in the Marxist tradition. This article examines these debates, and analyses and critiques the attempt by Party theorists to integrate globalisation into the Party's Marxist ideology.


This article analyses the response of China's intellectuals to the cultural impact of globalisation. Some have welcomed it, regarding it as the harbinger of cultural change that will modernise China and lead to democratic reform. Many more have expressed hostility and alarm, fearing increased individualism and consumerism. China's leaders have nevertheless determined to further expose the country to global forces, confident that the Chinese state is sufficiently robust to counter threats to its sovereignty in the cultural realm. However, the paradoxical tendencies of globalisation - cultural homogenisation and cultural fragmentation - will constitute a significant challenge to the leadership in defining and guarding what it understands “Chinese” culture to be.
RHD Students in the Spotlight

**LAI-HA CHAN**

While studying for her undergraduate and master’s degrees, Lai-Ha planned to seek a job in the government afterwards, and if asked about doing a PhD she would have said, "Haven’t thought about it." After finishing her master’s degree in New Zealand in 2000, she swiftly went back to Hong Kong and started her career in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. While working full time for the government, she was also a part-time tutor at the Open University of Hong Kong. Both jobs gave her different working experience. As she studied government and public administration for her bachelor degree in Macau, the government job allowed her to apply the knowledge she learnt in class into practice. Teaching during her tutorship gave her lots of personal satisfaction, and therefore she maintained the two different jobs for several years.

During the SARS outbreak of 2003, Lai-Ha was assigned an urgent duty at a housing estate (Amoy Garden) where all the residents were quarantined. This challenging experience stimulated her to ponder the relationship between infectious disease and international relations. In a globalizing world, a country’s public health and its policies could certainly have devastating consequences for both the country as well as the international community.

After serious consideration of her interests and ambitions, Lai-Ha decided to pursue a PhD in international relations. As China has always been of interest to her, she is focusing on China and global health governance in her PhD. After receiving a scholarship from the Griffith Asia Institute, she moved to Brisbane from Canberra and started her PhD at Griffith University in January 2006. With Professor Michael Wesley’s guidance (her supervisor) she gave a presentation in April 2006 on part of her PhD research at the Griffith Asia Institute seminar series. The seminar received positive feedback from the audience. She has just converted her seminar paper into a monograph entitled, The Evolution of Health Governance in China: A Case Study of HIV/AIDS. It is expected to be published in 2006.

The first half-year at Griffith has brought a lot of challenges and fulfilment to Lai-Ha. In addition to finishing the paper for publication, she had the opportunity of being one of the tutors for the first year course ‘International Relations’ at the Department of International Business and Asian Studies in the first semester of 2006. Although Lai-Ha has experience in tutoring, this was the first time she tutored completely in English. When asked about her experience tutoring at Griffith, she replied, ‘this has absolutely been a good experience and has not only enhanced my academic knowledge but has also polished my teaching skills.’

Finally, Lai-Ha would like to thank the Griffith Asia Institute for its generous scholarship, allowing her to study in Australia to pursue her academic career, as well as her supervisor, Professor Michael Wesley, for his astute supervision.
Dan Halvorson

Dan came to Griffith in 2004 to undertake Honours after completing his Bachelor degree in International and Global Studies at QUT. According to Dan, “The Griffith Honours programme in Asian and International Studies was a near perfect fit for my interests in Asia-Pacific international relations, history, and political economy. I was able to select from a wide range of high quality subjects in the Masters programme, whilst still having the flexibility to pursue my own research interests”.

Dan’s honours thesis examined the political economy of Vietnam’s transition to a market economy under the supervision of Professor Yan Islam. “Receiving a Griffith Business School Honours scholarship assisted me in my studies and I was fortunate to be able to spend time in Vietnam during the project; an invaluable experience in developing an understanding of the effects of political and economic processes in a less-developed Asian society”.

After graduating, Dan joined Professor Yul Kwon as research assistant in the Australian Centre for Korean Studies. In August 2005, he was honoured to be the recipient of the inaugural David McGrath Memorial Fellowship for doctoral study in Asian political economy. “Receiving this scholarship and being admitted into the Ph.D. programme with the Griffith Asia Institute has marked the beginning of an exciting and challenging phase in my life and career”. Dan’s Ph.D. project examines the political economy of failed states and intervention with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region under the supervision of Professor Michael Wesley.

Vanessa Schouten

Vanessa Schouten was born in the UK, but from the age of 18 lived and worked in Hong Kong for six years between 1990 and 1996 as well as travelling in Asia spending time in Malaysia, Thailand, China, Sri Lanka and India. In the period before the handover in 1997 in Hong Kong, Vanessa worked as public relations and sponsorship officer for the British Council Hong Kong promoting British educational and technical expertise, liaising with both the Hong Kong and Chinese governments and British Trade Commission in the course of her duties. Vanessa returned to the UK to complete a psychology BSc in London and then followed a career in business and market research project managing and analysing international projects. Vanessa’s interest in Asia did not wane during her time in the UK and she began studying Putonghua in the evenings.

Vanessa moved to Australia in 2003 with the intention of undertaking post-graduate study and her experience of living and working in Asia prompted her to choose Asian Studies. Vanessa now studies a Masters in Asian and International Studies at Griffith University and continues to take an evening class in Putonghua once a week. Vanessa loves her course because it affords her the opportunity to discuss global issues with other interested colleagues. In addition, she feels now more than ever, that this area of study is becoming of more relevance to everyone as the world shrinks and increasingly we are becoming more affected by what is happening in our region and other countries.

Having worked as a market researcher for five years in an agency, Vanessa now works as a marketing research analyst for QSuper (Government Superannuation Office) in Queensland and is studying part time. Her ambition is to complete her Masters and then use her research experience to go on to study a PhD in Asian Studies. Ultimately, Vanessa would like to be able to obtain a research or advisory role in a business or political environment.
Member News

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The Conference series has been launched by Indonesia’s largest Islamic organisation, the Nahdlatul Ulama, together with Indonesia’s Department of Foreign Affairs, as a major initiative to promote moderate understandings of the faith across the Islamic world and to project this vision of Islam into the international media.

This second conference in the series was opened by Indonesia’s President Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the General Chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama, KH. A. Hasyim Muzadi. Keynote speeches were delivered by Malaysia’s Prime Minister Dato’ Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (who is also General Chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference), Prince H.R.H. Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan, Dr. Javier Solana, Secretary General of the European Union, and a representative of the Vatican, Mgr. Khaled Akasheh. Former Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri and other dignitaries were in attendance.

Muslim scholars in offering papers at the Conference included not only ulama (traditionalist scholars trained in Islamic exegesis, law and other ‘Islamic sciences’) but university trained Islamists and also Muslim experts with advanced degrees and senior positions in a variety of fields like business, public health, economics, social work, education and law. This expertise in secular affairs was put to use on the Conference’s second day when it divided into three working groups on religiosity, injustice and poverty. On the third day the Conference concluded by agreeing on thirty seven recommendations for an action plan to make concrete changes in Muslim communities and their relations to their wider social environments.

The conference was widely covered in the press. The Indonesian press featured statements by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono reinforcing the country’s constitutional commitment to religious pluralism. It also carried statements issued by leaders from both of Indonesia’s largest ‘modernist’ and ‘traditionalist’ organisations (the Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama) declaring that their organisations will not press for narrow religious formalism to be encoded into national law and will continue to vigorously oppose violence in the name of religion.

The Indonesian press also sought comment from the invited non-Muslim scholars. Associate Professor Howell was interviewed by MetroTV, Republika, Koran Tempo, Radio Australia and Noor magazine. Republika, Indonesia’s leading Muslim newspaper, carried an article reviewing Julia’s paper.

Diary Dates

Refer to the Griffith Asia Institute Web site for updates on these and other events:

Public Seminars
Thursday - 5 October 2006
6.00pm – 7.00pm, South Bank
His Excellency Mr Prabhat Prakash SHUKLA
High Commissioner, India
Changing India

Thursday - 23 November 2006
6.00pm – 7.00pm, South Bank
Professor Yinjing Zhang
Privacy, Publicity and Progressive Filmmaking in 1930s Shanghai

Research Seminars
Seminars are held from 12.30pm to 1.50pm at the University’s Nathan Campus.

31 August
Dr Nadir Hosen, Law Faculty, UQ
V for Violence?: Fatwas of the Indonesian Council of Ulama (MUI)

7 September
Ms Lisa Scharoun, PhD Student, QCA
How Western Visual Communication strategies in fashion print advertising in China effect the Chinese sense of culture and self

14 September
Associate Professor Martin Griffiths
Dept of International Business & Asian Studies
Liberal Realism

21 September
Associate Professor John Butcher
Dept of International Business & Asian Studies
Indigenous maritime territories and the triumph of the three-mile limit in the Netherlands Indies, 1880s-1920s

5 October
Dr Michael Heazle, Griffith Asia Institute
Uncertainty Issues in Specialist Advice: Management or Manipulation?

12 October
Professor Ron Keith
Dept of International Business & Asian Studies
The Politics of China’s People’s Supreme Court

26 October
Dr Ratjat Kathuria, Professor & Registrar, International Management Institute, New Delhi
ICT for Education and Development in India