Research Seminar


By: Dr Donna Weeks, University of the Sunshine Coast, Visiting Fellow, Centre for Governance and Public Policy, Griffith University.

The Asia-Pacific region has been subject of a veritable alphabet of regional groupings over the years. When Prime Minister Rudd articulated his plan for an Asia-Pacific community in 2008, he was really only adding to the extensive dialogue among East Asian states to ponder the utility of another regional grouping, one that would be, in the words of Richard J. Samuels, the ‘Goldilocks consensus’, (just right). In this seminar paper, I will look at two or three ‘competing’ Japanese camps in the East Asian Community debate, including the East Asian Community Council, the Waseda University Project on designing an East Asian Community, and the Tokyo University ‘Comparative Regionalism Project’ (CREP). From these (and other) groups we can discern the directions of the concept in Japan. The focus is on economic integration over, what is seen to be, the much harder political/security integration. There is also a strong leaning towards a ‘functional’ approach, rather than a ‘systems’ approach such as that pursued in the EU. Knowing a little about the debate from around the region might lead us to a more nuanced approach in articulating such a concept from an Australian standpoint.

Donna Weeks is a lecturer in Japanese Studies and International Relations at the University of the Sunshine Coast. From January to June 2009, she is a visiting fellow in the Centre for Governance and Public Policy at Griffith University. She is author of the forthcoming The East Asia Security Community (Routledge, Security in Asia Pacific series)

Thursday 30 April 2009
N16 Room 1.22
Nathan campus
12.30 -1.50pm

To RSVP, please contact Natasha Vary on (07) 3735 5322 or n.vary@griffith.edu.au no later than 5.00pm Tuesday 28 April 2009