Research Seminar

‘Adam Smith in a Warmer World: Climate Change, Multilateral Trade and National Food Security’.

By: Dr Larry Crump, Senior Lecturer of International Management, International Business and Asian Studies, Griffith University.

The projected increase in the frequency, magnitude and severity of extreme weather events, as increasing CO2 emissions make the world warmer, has profound implications for the multilateral agricultural market. This market, vital to food security, could be destabilized if national governments respond by restricting agricultural exports, as many did during the 2007–2008 food panic. This study, informed by 67 interviews with ambassadors and diplomats from 33 nations and policy specialists from eight international organizations, seeks to identify trade policy that supports climate change adaptation. Market efficiency is the primary purpose of multilateral agricultural trade policy development (i.e., trade liberalization) while it is assumed that market reliability is embedded in supply and demand price transmission. The "reliability assumption" however, may not hold in a changing climate. In essence, efficiency is essential in a world of scarce resources but it is a secondary concern if human survival depends on reliability of agricultural supply. Organizations concerned with global governance should examine the implications of this observation for the multilateral agriculture market and national governments should consider this insight from a food security perspective.

Dr Larry Crump is Senior Lecturer of International Management in the Department of International Business and Asian Studies and a member of the Griffith Asia Institute. Larry has published extensively on multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations including "Developing Countries and Global Trade Negotiations" (Crump and Maswood, 2007, London: Routledge).

→ Thursday 3 September 2009
→ N72, Meeting Room -1.18
→ 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 1 September 2009.