The Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University and the Australian Centre of Asia-Pacific Art, Queensland Art Gallery would like to invite you to

**Perspectives: Asia Seminar**

‘Australian Engagement With Asia: A Patriotic Perspective’

By: Dr Tim Soutphommasane, National Centre for Australian Studies, Monash University.

Australian engagement with Asia remains a perennial question in the national conversation. At times, engagement has been understood as directly implicating national identity: to be enmeshed in Asia, perhaps as an Australian republic, was to be an emphatic statement of national maturity. Yet more recently, any ideal of cultural engagement have been superseded by more economic ambitions, as Australia enjoys a commodities boom fuelled by Asian demand. In addition to a cultural-economic divide, public sentiment towards Asia has been shaped by a view of our neighbours as variously a source of prosperity and a source of danger. Although patriotism has often been regarded as encouraging exclusion and protectionism, this paper argues a patriotic perspective can shed light on how Australians can bridge the divide between cultural and economic engagement, and between fear and opportunity.

Tim is a research fellow at Monash University’s National Centre for Australian Studies, a senior project leader at the Per Capita think tank, and a fellow of the St James Ethics Centre, He writes the "Ask the Philosopher" column in *The Weekend Australian*, which offers a philosophical take on politics, society and public policy. His books include *Reclaiming Patriotism: Nation-Building for Australian Progressives* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and *All That's Left: What Labor Should Stand For*, edited with Nick Dyrenfurth (University of NSW Press, 2010).


→ Cinema B, Gallery of Modern Art, Stanley Place, South Bank
→ Thursday 10 November 2011
→ The doors open at 5:30pm

Guests are welcome to join us for refreshments prior to the seminar. Places are limited, please book early to avoid disappointment. Please RSVP, to Sylvia Gillard by Friday 4 November 2011 on telephone 07 3735 5322 or email s.gillard@griffith.edu.au