

PUBLIC LECTURE 2007

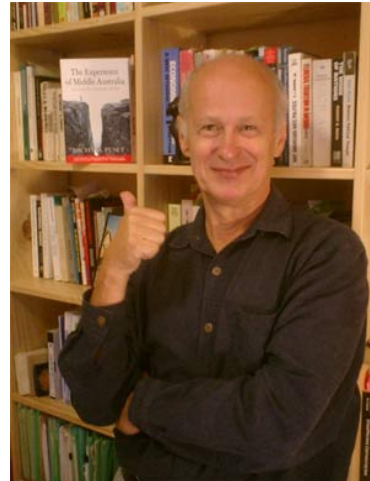
Keynote address for the workshop, *Australia Under Construction: Nation-building in Australia – Past, Present and Future*.

In the wake of economic reform

New prospects for a nation building state?

Professor Michael Pusey

Professor of Sociology
School of Sociology
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Wednesday 12th December, 6:00pm

Manning Clark Centre, Theatre 3, ANU, Acton

Presented by the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG)

This lecture is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the lecture. RSVP and Enquiries: johnb@coombs.anu.edu.au or T: 02 6125 3265

The Lecture

Has economic reform run its course? What potential remains for the resumption of nation building progress? Contrary to expectations Canberra emerges from twenty years of neo-liberalism with disciplined government, ample revenues, an effective regulative apparatus and — perhaps — the capacity for government to steer the economy towards a brighter future. These prospects are weighed against the negative impacts of neo-liberalism on our institutions and then examined from the three viewpoints of: our national political experience, the administrative apparatus, and popular expectations. The lecture then considers the dynamic energies inherent in the challenges, respectively, of climate change, infrastructure development, and economic policies based on the enhancement of quality of life.

The Speaker

Michael is a Professor of Sociology in the School of Sociology, University of New South Wales, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. In the early 1990s Michael Pusey's book *Economic Rationalism in Canberra: A Nation-Building State Changes its Mind*, started a national debate on economic rationalism and brought the term into public usage. His most recent book, *The Experience of Middle Australia*, examines the impact of economic restructuring on incomes, jobs, families, communities, politics and Australian culture.

The views expressed in this lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University