

as at 1 Feb 08

Upcoming Events

PUBLIC & PRIVATE REASONING

Conferences

8-10 Dec: **Economics & Democracy**

(coorganized with 'Productive Australia in the World Economy')

Speakers: Keynotes by Tim Besley (LSE & Bank of England) and Donald Wittman (U Calif, Santa Cruz); 30 other speakers from Australia and abroad.

Subject: The interpenetration of democracy and the economy has been subject to longstanding suspicions, on both sides. Economists frequently decry what they regard as ill-conceived interventions into the market from populist politicians. For their part, political scientists are often concerned about the influence that 'political money' has on the makeup of parliaments or decisions of government, and on keeping the forum separate from the market. What the appropriate relation between democracy and the economy should be remains a fraught question. Most of us rejoice in the extensions of the franchise and extending democracy, but many would baulk at extending it to workplaces or boardrooms. There are also important questions over whether contracting out more public functions to the private sector seriously constricts the range of democratic control. Some see democracy as just another kind of market: a market in votes, governed by the same logic as the economic market, while others regard the analogy as fundamentally misplaced.

contact: Mary Hapel <arcadia@coombs.anu.edu.au> on administrative matters; on substantive ones Bob Goodin <bob.goodin@anu.edu.au>; Andrew Leigh <andrew.leigh@anu.edu.au>; Keith Dowding <keith.dowding@anu.edu.au>

Workshops

7-8 Feb: **Theory & Practice of Deliberative Democracy**

(cosponsored by 'Comparative Public Policy & Government')

Speakers: Murray Goot (Macquarie); Craig Browne, Lyn Carson (Sydney); Sue Dodds, (Wollongong); John Yearwood, Andrew Stranieri (Ballarat);

Rachel Ankeny (Adelaide); Janette Hartz-Karp (Curtin); John Dryzek, Simon Niemeyer, Robert Goodin, Bora Kanra, Selen Ayirtman (ANU)
 Subject: Deliberative democracy has been a key topic on the research agenda of many disciplines in social sciences. In addition to theoretical approaches, in recent years, there has also been a growing interest in the practice of deliberative democracy both in Australia and overseas. Given this, the workshop aims to cover both theoretical and empirical issues around deliberative democracy. It will focus on the normative principles of deliberative democracy, how these principle guide empirical research, different forms and arenas of deliberative practices, and their impact on individuals, societies and policies.
 url: deliberativedemocracy.anu.edu.au/DDW.php
 contact: Selen Ayirtman <Selen.Ayirtman@anu.edu.au>

21-22 July: Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Probability

Subject: Various topics in the philosophy of science in general, and the philosophy of probability in particular.
 Speakers: Bryan Skyrms (UCal Irvine); Alan Hajek (ANU); Mark Colyvan (U Sydney) Hannes Leitgeb (U Bristol).
 contact: Alan Hajek <alanh@coombs.anu.edu.au>

24-25 July: Evolution of Signalling

Speakers: Bryan Skyrms (UCal Irvine); Brett Calcott, Stuart Saunders, Kim Sterelny, Richard Joyce (ANU); Carl Bergstrom (U Washington); Hanna Kokko (U Helsinki)
 Subject: The plan is to have a roughly equal split between philosophers and those from a science-based discipline. Saunders, Calcott, Sterelny and Skyrms have all committed to speak and will need not (extra) funding; we are aim to match these with four evolutionary theorists.
 contact: Brett Calcott <brett@coombs.anu.edu.au>

28-29 July: Emotions & Commitment

Speakers: Bryan Skyrms (UCal Irvine); Brett Calcott, Stuart Saunders, Kim Sterelny, Richard Joyce (ANU); Jesse Prinz (U North Carolina); Paul Zak (U Pennsylvania); Justin D' Ars (Ohio); William Brown (Brunel U, UK); Dan Fessler (UCLA).
 Subject: Since commitment is inter alia a signalling problem, this workshop links well to the earlier one, and we would expect a significant overlap between both speakers and audience across the second and third workshops.
 contact: Kim Sterelny <kimbo@coombs.anu.edu.au>

Distinguished Visitor Public Lectures/Master Classes

A great many important international visitors working on Public and Private Reasoning themes come to ANU, many of them under the aegis of Programs, Projects and Centres associated with the Theme. Here we highlight only the three most 'high profile' visits, two associated with annual named lectures, one Adjunct Professor and one sponsored by the VC's Visiting International Academic program.

Brian Skyrms (Philosophy, U California Irvine) will be at ANU *-* July 2008 as the 2008 Jack Smart Lecturer. During that time he will make the following public presentations:

- The Jack Smart lecture, on the topic '*1' (4pm, 22 July, Law Link Theatre)
- A public lecture on '*1' (*DATE*)
- A master class for interested MA and PhD students (date to be announced)

Seyla Benhabib (Political Science, Yale) will be at ANU *-* Dec 2008 as the 2008 John Passmore Lecturer. During that time she will make the following public presentations:

- The John Passmore lecture, on the topic * (*DATE*)
- A public lecture on '*1' (* DATE*)
- A master class for interested MA and PhD students (date to be announced)

Peter Wagner (Sociology, Trento University) will be at ANU (dates still to be determined) as a VC-sponsored Visiting International Academic. During that time he will make the following public presentations.

- An academic lecture open to all on campus on the topic 'Freedom and Solidarity' (date to be announced)
- A public lecture on 'Modernity: Experience or Interpretation?' (date to be announced)
- A master class for interested MA and PhD students (date to be announced)

Monthly Interdisciplinary Theme Seminars

The last Monday of most months the 4 CASS themes organized within RSSS hold an interdisciplinary seminar on some topic of general interest. For upcoming events see <rsss.anu.edu.au/themes.php>.

Ongoing Research Collaboration

Ongoing interdisciplinary collaboration along Public and Private Reasoning themes occur through:

- Two research Centres with which the Theme is associated:
 - the Centre for Consciousness
 - the Centre for Macroevolution and Macroecology
- Seven research Projects with which the Theme is associated:
 - 'The evolution of the social brain'
 - 'Mathematical and Philosophical Foundations of Probability'
 - 'Structure and content of consciousness'
 - 'Epistemic warrant'
 - 'Norms, reasons and values'
 - 'Belief and beliefs'
 - 'The hegemony of representation'

Discussions are underway concerning the establishment of new research Centres on:

- Deliberative Democracy <John.Dryzek@anu.edu.au>
- Rational Choice <Keith.Dowding@anu.edu.au>
- Social & Political Theory <Bob.Goodin@anu.edu.au>

Anyone interested in being associated with any of those proposed Centres should contact the individuals named above to register their interest by contacting the nominated convenor.