

ASSA SYMPOSIUM 2005 & Cunningham Lecture

Ideas and Influence: Social Science and Public Policy in Australia

The instruments of influence are words, spoken or written; if the influence is to be for the good, it must rest on knowledge. Lord Beveridge.

This year's Symposium deals with the relations between social science research, public opinion and the policy community, and is intended to show that expert knowledge can shape better futures. A range of eminent social scientists highlight policy issues, ask where the ideas and solutions come from and identify potential sources of new approaches. The book that forms the basis of the Symposium, *Ideas and Influence: Social Science and Public Policy in Australia* (UNSW Press) will be launched at the Symposium.

The symposium will analyse some of the policy problems of the moment and reveal how the social sciences can assist in addressing them. A broader aim is to demonstrate that a better understanding of the complementary relations between researchers and policy makers will help release new capacities. Such understanding involves paying attention to the international movement of ideas, since the practices of social science, and conversations about contemporary problems, transcend national boundaries. Yet, as the symposium will show, while some of the most influential ideas driving policy derive from elsewhere, Australians not only adapt such currents in particular ways, but also initiate approaches that lead to innovation abroad.

When it comes to those collective decisions that determine how we will live together, we rely on leadership – from politicians, business gurus, community figures – to define the problems, filter the options, and suggest solutions. This generates public policy: ways of acting intended to address specific problems or to achieve stated outcomes. Yet in fashioning policy, our leaders and policy activists must make sense of the welter of information, the clamour of expert voices on every side. Political objectives might filter their options, but those options must draw on the work of those who inquire into the nature of things, whose research is reliable and whose analysis promises realistic responses to our problems. Sensible policy will emerge from an effective partnership between policy practitioners and socially responsive yet scientifically rigorous researchers.

The Symposium recognises that the partnership between policy makers and researchers is inherently uneasy. It provides an opportunity to bring both sides together, to draw on existing successes and to develop new points of connection.

Fellows' Colloquium

7.30 PM SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER

DRAWING ROOM, UNIVERSITY HOUSE

Should Australia Have a Bill of Rights?

Convened by Professor Hilary Charlesworth, Regulatory Institutions Network, ANU; and Professor Larissa Behrendt, Professor of Law and Indigenous Studies and Director of the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Cunningham Lecture 2005

PUBLIC LECTURE (FREE)

6 PM MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER

SHINE DOME

Rethinking Australian Governance

Paul Kelly

Editor at Large

The Australian

IDEAS *and* INFLUENCE



SOCIAL SCIENCE *and* PUBLIC POLICY *in* AUSTRALIA

7 November 2005 SHINE DOME CANBERRA



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SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM (SHINE DOME)

7 November 2005

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|---------|--|--------------------------------------|---------|--|-------------------|
| 9.00am | Welcome | Sue Richardson, President of ASSA | 12.30pm | Lunch | |
| 9.05am | Introduction | Peter Saunders | 1.30pm | <i>Rights and Responsibilities: Welfare and Citizenship:</i> | Peter Travers |
| 9.15am | <i>Reconsidering the Policy Sciences:</i> | James Walter | | <i>Work and Family: The Shy Social Scientist?</i> | Barbara Pocock |
| | <i>Economic Liberalism: Fall, Revival and Resistance:</i> | John Quiggin | | <i>Spatial Difference and Public Policy:</i> | Ruth Fincher |
| | <i>Governance:</i> | Brian Head | | Discussant: | Wayne Jackson |
| | Discussant: | Michael Keating | 2.45pm | Afternoon Tea | |
| 10.30am | Morning Tea | | 3.15pm | <i>Liberty, Security and the State:</i> | Jenny Hocking |
| 11.00am | <i>Education and Human Capital:</i> | Simon Marginson | | <i>The Quality of Life: Richard Eckersley</i> | Richard Eckersley |
| | <i>Gender Politics: Hers to His:</i> | Chilla Bulbeck | | <i>Opinion formation: Problems and Prospects:</i> | Ian Marsh |
| | <i>Indigenous Affairs:</i> | Jon Altman and Tim Rowse | 4.30pm | Discussant: | Meredith Edwards |
| | Discussant: | Adam Graycar | | Closing Panel | |
| 12.15pm | Book Launch: <i>Ideas and Influence: Social Science and Public Policy in Australia</i> | | 5.15pm | Chair: | Marian Sawer |
| | | | | Open discussion | |
| | | | | President's Drinks at the Dome | |

PRESENTERS

Jon Altman (FASSA) is Professor and Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at The Australian National University: he was appointed foundation director in 1990. His research interests include Indigenous economic development, natural and cultural resource management, and Indigenous public policy.

Chilla Bulbeck is Professor of Women's Studies in the School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Adelaide. Her current research extends her interest in gender in cross-cultural perspective to compare young people's attitudes to gender and social issues in ten countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Richard Eckersley is a Fellow at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University, where he is exploring progress and wellbeing, and whether or not life is getting better. His research includes: measures of progress; the relationships between economic growth, quality of life and environmental sustainability; the social and cultural determinants of health and happiness; and visions of the future.

Ruth Fincher (FASSA) is Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne, and since 1997 has been Professor of Urban Planning and Adjunct Professor of Geography there. An urban geographer, her research interests are in spatial expressions of inequality, urban and social policy, and the urban experiences of immigrants and women in labour markets, housing and community services.

Brian Head is CEO of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth and Professor of Governance at Griffith University. He has held senior positions in the governmental sector, leading the policy division in three agencies and the public sector management function for the Queensland government. He is currently researching aspects of collaboration, community consultation, integrity systems, inter-governmental policy relations, and new partnership and network models.

Jenny Hocking is an Australian Research Council QEII Research Fellow and Associate Professor in the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University. She has given evidence to both the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee and the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the government's proposed security legislation. Her recent book on Australia's counter-terrorism developments post-September 11, *Terror Laws: ASIO, Counter-terrorism and the Threat to Democracy* was published by UNSW Press in 2004.

Simon Marginson (FASSA) is an Australian Professorial Fellow in Education at Monash University. He works mainly on higher education, and comparative and international education, in the context of globalisation, and is an active commentator on public policy. His book *The Enterprise University* (co-authored with Mark Considine) was published in 2000, and he is currently completing a monograph on the future of the research university.

Ian Marsh is a Professor in the Graduate School of Government at the University of Sydney and Director of Research for the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia. Recent publications include (with David Yencken) *Into the Future the Neglect of the Long Term in Australian Politics* (Black Inc. 2004) and two edited studies: *Democratisation, Governance and Regionalism in East and Southeast Asia* (Routledge, 2005) and *Australia's Parties and Party System in an Era of Globalisation* (Federation Press, 2006).

Barbara Pocock is a Queen Elizabeth II Research Fellow in Social Sciences at the University of Adelaide. She has been investigating work, broadly defined, for over two decades, studying Australia in particular. Her most recent book is *The Work/Life Collision* (Federation Press 2003). Her next book (2006) is provisionally titled *The Market Ate My Babies! How Markets Contradict Care*.

John Quiggin (FASSA) is Professor and Federation Fellow in Economics and Political Science at the University of Queensland. He has published over 700 research articles, books and reports in fields including environmental economics, risk analysis, production economics, and the theory of economic growth. He has also written on policy topics including unemployment policy, micro-economic reform, privatisation, competitive tendering and the management of the Murray-Darling river system.

Tim Rowse is in the History Program in the Research School of Social Sciences, at the Australian National University. Since 1981, he has been researching the past and contemporary forms of the colonial relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, and is the author of *Remote Possibilities* (1992), *After Mabo* (1993) and *Indigenous Futures* (2002). He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and in 2003-4 he held the Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University.

Peter Saunders (FASSA) is an Australian Professorial Fellow and has been the Director of the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales since 1987. His research interests include poverty and income distribution, household needs and living standards, social security reform and comparative social policy. Recent publications include *The Ends and Means of Welfare* (CUP, 2002) and *The Poverty Wars. Reconnecting Research with Reality* (UNSW Press, 2005).

Peter Travers was President of ACOSS from 1977-79, and later studied in Oxford. He joined the staff of the School of Social Administration and Social Work at Flinders University in 1981, and was Head of School from 1999-2003. He has written extensively on living standards in Australia and New Zealand. With Sue Richardson, he is co-author of *Living Decently: Material Well Being in Australia*, Oxford University Press, 1993.

James Walter (FASSA) is Professor of Politics at Monash University, and has previously held chairs in Australian Studies at Griffith University (where he is Emeritus Professor) and the University of London. He has published in the areas of political biography, institutions, leadership and political ideas. His last book was *The Citizens' Bargain* (UNSWP 2002); his next is provisionally titled *The Ideology Makers; Ideas and Activists in Australian Politics* (2006).

DISCUSSANTS

Professor Meredith Edwards AM (FASSA) was a Commonwealth public servant from 1983 until 1997. Experienced in many Commonwealth departments; her final public service position was as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Her book, *Social Policy, Public Policy: From Problem to Practice* (2001), drew on case studies from her public service career. She has been Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canberra (1997-2002), and was appointed Director of the National Institute for Governance at the University of Canberra in 1999 and Emeritus in 2005.

Dr Adam Graycar (FASSA) is Director of the Cabinet Office, Government of South Australia. He was previously Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology, the Foundation Director of the Social Welfare (Policy) Research Centre at the University of NSW, and was also Australia's first Commissioner for the Ageing. He has long experience as an academic and in government in areas such social policy, higher education, ageing, crime and justice.

Wayne Jackson has been a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) since July 1998. Within FaCS he has had responsibility for broad social policy, welfare reform, family and children, women, youth, service delivery and social security governance and accountability. Previously, he had served terms as the Deputy Secretary in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), with responsibility for the Social Policy Group; the National Manager of the Commonwealth-State Home and Community Care Program in the now Department of Health and Ageing; and head of the Budget Development Branch in the Department of Finance and Administration.

Dr. Michael Keating AC (FASSA), FIPA is Chairman of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal in NSW, and a Visiting Fellow in the Economics Program in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. Previously Dr. Keating was Secretary to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (1991 to 1996). Prior to that he was Head of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations (1983 to 1986), and Head of the Department of Finance (1986 to 1991). His latest book, *Who Rules? How government retains control of a privatised economy* (2004), discusses the relationship between markets, government and society.