



Centre for Dialogue
— A Centre of La Trobe University —

From the Middle East to Asia Pacific: Arc of Conflict or Dialogue of Cultures and Religions?

Seventh Annual Conference

Globalization for the Common Good: An Interfaith Perspective

30 June – 4 July 2008

Trinity College, University of Melbourne

Call for Papers

This major international conference is co-sponsored by the **Centre for Dialogue** (La Trobe University; Melbourne, Australia), **Trinity College** (University of Melbourne), the **Melbourne College of Divinity**, and the **Asia-Pacific Institute for Inter-Religious Dialogue** (Australian Catholic University). It is the seventh annual conference in the series *Globalization for the Common Good - An Interfaith Perspective* founded by Dr Kamran Mofid. The Conference will be held at Trinity College.

The Conference programme is designed to achieve three objectives:

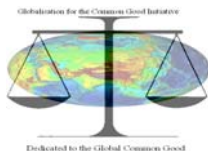
- To explore the far-reaching ramifications of conflict in the Middle East (broadly defined) for the religious, cultural and political landscape of the Asia-Pacific region;
- To bring together in fruitful interaction the insights of several disciplinary traditions (in particular religious studies, cultural studies, international relations, history, sociology and law);
- To illuminate and strengthen the connections between the Middle East and the geographic regions which constitute Asia Pacific, in particular West Asia, South Asia, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

This Conference will be held in Melbourne in the first week of July 2008. Previous conferences have been held in Oxford (2002), St Petersburg (2003), Dubai (2004), Kericho, Kenya (2005), Honolulu (2006) and Istanbul (2007). *The Melbourne conference will be the first in the series to be held with a clear Asia-Pacific focus.* For background information on the initiative and details of previous conferences visit: <http://www.globalisationforthecommongood.info/>

The Conference is jointly convened by Dr Kamran Mofid and Professor Joseph A. Camilleri (Director of the Centre for Dialogue and Professor of International Relations, La Trobe University).

Conference Programme

The theme will link the various conflicts in the Middle East (religious and political) and the complex and increasingly contentious relationship between Islam and the West with a range of issues that have assumed increasing prominence in Asia Pacific (especially since September 11, although



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many of these links have a much older history). Issues to be considered by the Conference include:

- a) The relationship between the three Abrahamic faiths, its implications for conflict resolution in the Middle East, and the prospects for inter-faith and intercultural dialogue in the Asia-Pacific region generally, and in particular for multi-faith, multi-ethnic societies;
- b) Islam and the West (global and regional dimensions), especially the impact of conflicts involving Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan and the 'war on terror' on international relations generally, and the Asia-Pacific region in particular);
- c) The attitudes of Muslims in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Pakistan, India to events and issues in the Middle East and the way in which those events impact on their own countries;
- d) Handling of tensions since September 11, with particular reference to Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand (including civil conflicts in Mindanao, South Thailand and Indonesia) – how have the major religious and ethical traditions handled these tensions?
- e) Debates within the Muslim world in relation to Islam's self-understanding, relationship with the state, relations with other religions, and role in the international community;
- f) The implications of these developments for Australia's relations with the region, as well as for community relations inside Australia (in particular for multiculturalism: past, present and future – and for Muslim and Indigenous communities in Australia).

The official opening of the Conference will take place in the evening of Monday 20 June 2008. This will be a significant public event, featuring a keynote address of the Conference and the participation of other eminent international scholars and practitioners.

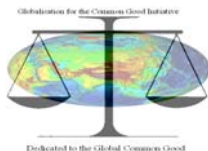
The Conference program will include keynote addresses and other invited presentations, as well as a larger number of presentations selected through this call for papers.

Attention is drawn to two features of the conference of particular interest to **postgraduate students**:

- *A Special Session* at which postgraduate students are invited to present 20 minute papers on the ethical implications of their research (in such areas as business, health, education, communication, culture) in a global context. Postgraduate students interested in presenting papers are asked to submit proposals in response to this call for papers, in accordance with the procedures and deadlines outlined below.
- Accredited Masters Level Unit: *Globalization and the Dialogue of Cultures and Religions*

In conjunction with the conference the Melbourne College of Divinity has approved the teaching of a Masters level unit which may be taken by postgraduate students nationally and internally. This unit will be offered online during the period of March-June in the first semester of 2008 and the assessment of the unit will be based on postgraduate level online

seminars, research tasks and forum discussions. With a strong commitment to research of high quality, a selected number of postgraduate essays may be accepted for a refereed publication. The details of the unit will in due course be available at <https://www.trinitycollege.vic.edu.au/theologyonline/> and <http://www.mcd.unimelb.edu.au/>. Further information: Dr Ruwan Palapathwala: Email: ruwanp@trinity.unimelb.edu.au.



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CALL FOR PAPERS

A **Call for papers** is now addressed to scholars, postgraduate students, researchers and others with expertise on any of the themes outlined above.

Proposals are invited from scholars specialising in a range of disciplines, including theology, philosophy, history, political science, international relations, conflict analysis and peace research, economics and political economy, law, sociology, psychology, medicine, environmental studies and geography. Proposals are also invited from members of parliament, practitioners in diplomacy, law, the media, the health professions and business, as well as those involved in religious and non-governmental organisations. *Proposals that adopt an inter-disciplinary perspective are especially welcome.*

Proposals should be received by **Monday 19 November 2007**.

Proposals should include:

- Title of proposed paper;
- A 250-word abstract, setting out relevance to one or other of the key themes outlined above;
- Author's name and institutional affiliation;
- One paragraph bio-note of the author.

All proposals will be assessed by an inter-disciplinary panel appointed by the joint conveners, and applicants will be informed of the Organising Committee's decision by **21 January 2008**.

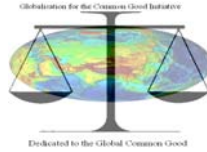
Successful applicants will be given two weeks to confirm their participation.

The Conference Organising Committee must receive by **Monday 2 June 2008** the written papers (approximate length 5,000 to 6,000 words), which have to represent an original contribution not published elsewhere. The Conference's working language is English. It is planned to produce one or more international publications drawing on high quality papers selected by the joint conveners' inter-disciplinary panel.

Those selected to present a paper will be required to pay the registration fee which will cover lunches, morning and afternoon teas and copies of all papers. The Organising Committee is not able to provide support covering participants' travel and accommodation expenses.

Important Dates

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| • <u>19 November 2007:</u> | Call for papers deadline |
| • <u>21 January 2008:</u> | All applicants to be notified |
| • <u>4 February 2008:</u> | Final confirmation of participation |
| • <u>2 June 2008:</u> | Written papers to be received |



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Website

A dedicated conference website is under construction. It will include various details about the conference, including program, as well as information about social and cultural events, sightseeing tours and the cost of attending the conference. Please note that travel arrangements and costs are the responsibility of participants or their sponsoring institutions. The Conference organisers are not able to offer financial support. However, the overall costs will be highly subsidised, enabling many to attend.

Please submit paper proposals, preferably as a Word or Rtf document, and any queries to:

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With Warmest good wishes

Kamran Mofid
Joseph A. Camilleri

1 May 2007