

### Institute Farewells Inaugural Patrons

On the evening of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November the Institute farewelled its inaugural Patrons, Justice Michael Kirby and Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue at a buffet dinner. It was a memorable night: important things were said; swansongs were sung; there was much camaraderie.



(L-R) Inaugural Patrons Justice Michael Kirby and Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue with Institute Director Phillip Darby at the buffet dinner on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

The day before we learnt that the numbers had come up for Barack Obama and that he was now president-elect of the United States. Lowitja spoke of her elation at hearing the news and of how she had been prompted to reflect on the challenge of having one parent who is black and one who is white. This creates many different expectations – that racism no longer exists, that you have sold out – and dealing with them will not be easy. Lowitja went on to speak of the importance the stories people tell which shape how they perceive themselves and the worlds they inhabit. Such stories can offer a challenge to dominant conceptions and to the so-called truths that we have grown up with: “Mick Dodson once said that Aboriginal people’s right must include the freedom to live outside the cage created by other people’s images and projections. The work of your Institute is helping people to live outside that cage.” Michael picked up on several of the points that Lowitja made and developed them in his own way. Obama’s ascent is a symbol of postcolonialism. “Suddenly on television, behind the bullet-proof glass, was a whole family of black American people. (Continued p.2)

### New Patrons Appointed

The Institute is delighted to welcome Robyn Archer, AO and Justice Anthony North as its new patrons.



Robyn Archer is a singer, writer, and artistic director. She sang Brecht/Eisler/Dylan at the Canberra International Music festival in May last year, and her French cabaret programme *Que-reste t'il* will be performed at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival in June 2009. Her new play *Architektin* was produced in Adelaide last September and now has sparked interest both here and in America. In March she will present Creative New Zealand’s work in progress programme over three days in Auckland, then travel to Pittsburgh where she directs the graduating production of the Drama School, Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, April 2009. After that she will be in Varna on the Black Sea to be a mentor for young artistic directors for the European Festivals’ Association.

Robyn is currently Artistic Director of the *Light in Winter*, which she created for Federation Square in Melbourne; its third edition opens 4 June 2009. She is developing ideas for new events in Perth and Canberra and is currently completing a major report on the Adelaide Centre for the Arts.

Robyn’s reputation for artistic direction began with the National Festival of Australian Theatre (Canberra); she went on to direct the Adelaide Festival of Arts and the Melbourne International Arts Festival. She created *Ten Days on the Island* for Tasmania, spent two years as the Artistic Director of The European Capital of Culture, and curated the 2008 Alfred Deakin Lectures as well as many one-off events.

She is frequently invited to speak on the arts throughout the world (most recently in New York in January 2009), and on 3<sup>rd</sup> March she gives the 10<sup>th</sup> Manning Clark Lecture at the National Library of Australia in Canberra. (Continued p.3)

## Institute Farewells Inaugural

### Patrons *(Continued from p.1)*

Let us hope that the White House is overrun with people who look noticeably different.”

Michael then turned to speak about the power of ideas that over time can work fundamental change. He recalled attending a conference in Bangalore some years ago, called by the then Chief Justice of India, P.N. Bhagwati, at which a compelling argument was developed that judges in their national jurisdiction should take account of international human rights law developed through the UN system. At the time, this was regarded as heresy in Australia. Slowly, however, the idea made headway and we find that the key passage in the Mabo judgment of Justice Brennan is essentially the Bangalore message.

As a special treat, Lowitja sang “Whiter than Snow”, a song she had been taught at Colebrook Home, the institution in which she had been placed when removed from her mother at the age of two. This was followed by a song taught as preparation for mission service – “If the Lord wants you to go to Oodnadatta, will you go? Will you go?”. She then sprang the idea that Michael might join her in the 2009 Australian Idol series. “Now, that really would offer a great representation of difference, identity and culture, wouldn’t it?” Michael responded by saying that although he was never taught to want to be whiter than snow, he did get taught to want to be straighter than straight. He knew all the old hymns from his schooldays. But, he went on, “we both need a few singing lessons and I think the Institute should be willing to pay for that.” He then invited Lowitja to join him in singing “By the Cross”. And, of course, she did.



*(L-R) Institute member Rachel Bongiono with the inaugural Patrons – with caterers in the background.*

Phillip Darby thanked the patrons for how much they have contributed to the life of the Institute, mentioning particularly how they encouraged us to reach out to a broader constituency and to apply postcolonial theory to the problems at hand. “We hope”, he said, “that as you go out into the sunset together – to use Michael’s phrase – you have the satisfaction of knowing that you have left the Institute better placed than before to make at least a modest difference.”

*\*Audios of the speeches will soon be available for download on the Institute’s new website.*

## Postcolonial Studies

A year of significant and exciting change, 2008 witnessed the growth of *Postcolonial Studies* from one local, to three international editorial boards. After more than a decade of scholarly vision, and critical and commercial success, the journal has assumed a truly international dimension with the consolidation of editorial boards in London, Santa Cruz and Melbourne.

A time of transition, the four issues published in 2008 bear the mark of no less than ten editorial hands and have produced a collection of essays of rare significance and critical import – an encouraging, if not ominous, sign of things to come.

Issue 11.1 saw founding reviews editor, Michele Grossman, and former managing editor, Amanda Macdonald say farewell to the journal in typically accomplished style. In a collection full of diversely engaging essays, two highlights are already attracting significant download interest: Esther Berry’s very Commaroffian essay, “The zombie commodity: hair and the politics of globalization”, and founding editor Michael Dutton’s first submission to the journal in its eleven year history, “Passionately governmental: Maoism and the structured intensities of revolutionary governmentality”.

Edited by Sanjay Seth from London, issue 11.2 is perhaps one of the journal’s most poignant editorial efforts to date. Representing both a timely collection of essays on historiography in non-Western pasts, as well as a farewell and obituary to a friend, colleague and mentor, this issue gracefully marks the passing away of historian Greg Denning who died in March 2008. Rich in narrative accomplishment and critical flare, issue 11.2 is sure to make a lasting mark on the field.

Picking up, in many ways, where the intellectual work of issue 11.2 left off, Chua Beng Huat has edited a special issue of timely importance, addressing one of the most significant absences in postcolonial discourse: the position and place of South-East Asia. The articles contained in 11.3 take the reader from the shores of the Philippines, through Thailand and Vietnam, all the way back to Malaysia and Singapore. More than a mere ‘area study’, however, 11.3 is a sharp edged intervention into the politics of the discipline.

Finally, issue 11.4 saw Santa Cruz consolidate its position as our North American editorial board. In many ways it would be a misnomer to call Santa Cruz a *new* addition to the journal given that Chris Connery and Vanita Seth have together put numerous issues to press in the past. Nonetheless, as Chris’ editorial points out in its revelation of the important place Santa Cruz has held in shaping the discipline of Cultural Studies, issue 11.4 represents yet another facet of the journal’s reach into new terrains, with new voices, and new critical concerns. Looking ahead, and to complete the editorial picture, issue 12.1 (a March release) will mark the arrival of the new Melbourne editorial. This will be followed by special issues from Melbourne, London and finally Santa Cruz, making 2009 a year of wide-ranging, yet critically engaged scholarship.

## New Patrons Appointed *(Continued from p.1)*

In April 2008 Robyn was a juror on the inaugural Danes Caribes in Havana at the invitation of the French Government, and a participant in the 2020 Summit held in Canberra. Robyn is currently on a panel of advisors to Arts Plus, an initiative researching support for local individual artists. Her Wal Cherry Memorial Lecture (Unconditional Love: industry that pays and arts that doesn't) has been published in abridged form in the most recent *Griffith Review*.

Robyn is a patron of the Australian Art Orchestra, Brink Productions, the Australian Script Centre and the Arts Law Centre. She has associations with the Globalism Institute at RMIT and with the International Women's Development Agency. She is an Officer of the Order of Australia, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France), Officer of the Order of the Crown (Belgium) and holds Honorary Degrees from Flinders and Sydney Universities.



After a period as Associate to Sir Ninian Stephen, when he was a Justice of the High Court, Anthony North joined the Victorian Bar. In 1989 he was appointed a Queen's Counsel. Between 1992 and 1995 he was the Defence Force Advocate, a part-time statutory office requiring him to provide advice to the Chief of the Defence Force on pay and conditions of members, and to appear before the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal on behalf of members of the ADF.

Anthony North was appointed to the Federal Court in October 1995. In recent years he has been widely seen as someone with strong progressive views on social justice issues. This is particularly evident in his handling of native title cases. For example, in handing down his decision on recognising the Guditjmarra people's rights over 140,000 hectares of crown land in south-western Victoria, he remarked that "By doing justice to the Guditjmarra People, the State, the Commonwealth and the other respondents have taken a step to right past wrongs and lay a basis for reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians."

Justice North has a special interest in refugee law and has, since 2005, served as President of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges. He is an active participant in the international outreach activities of the

Federal Court. He has spoken widely at international conferences including in Malaysia on judicial independence, in Sri Lanka on power sharing in the Federal system, in Canada on refugee developments and has conducted seminars in Fiji on assisted dispute resolution. In 2005 he was the first participant in the judicial exchange programme between the Federal Court of Australia and the Federal Court of Canada.

Tony North is well-acquainted with the Institute and its ways. He has been a member for some years, having been introduced by Nehal Bhuta, his one-time Associate. He chaired a public forum on The High Court and Land Rights in July 2003 and gave a remarkable presentation entitled "A Photographic Journey through a Native Title Hearing" in March 2004. He also frequents the same restaurants as we do - or aspire to.



(L-R) Liz Cham, Paul Carter and Raelene Frances at the welcome reception for Liz.

## Paul Carter Writing at Institute

Author of *The Road to Botany Bay*, *Repressed Spaces* and many other books, Paul Carter is now occupying writing space at the Institute. Having recently left the University of Melbourne, he is consulting to the Northern Territory government on placemaking projects in Darwin and Alice Springs. At the end of 2008 he published *Dark Writing: Geography, Performance and Design* in the Institute's book series. His book projects for 2009 include *Erotic Zones* and *Ground Truthing*, a meditation on place after GoogleEarth.

## Conversations about Projects

Over the past couple of months Liz Cham, Paul Carter and Phillip Darby have had several stimulating conversations about projects. Members of the Institute interested in embarking on a project that engages with a community-based organisation, corporate group or government agency are welcome to participate in these informal discussions. Engaging directly with the doing of projects could be a productive way of moving forward the projects initiative, incubated at the 2007 winter rethink and announced in the March 2008 newsletter. Members interested in taking part in a discussion about projects should send an email to the Institute.

## Postcolonial Conversations

In place of our customary seminar programme, this semester we have arranged a series of conversations on topical issues. Our thinking is that through informal discussions, the relevance of postcolonialism to questions of widespread concern might emerge almost as a matter of course. At the same time, postcolonial approaches could well be extended and taken in new directions.

There is also the hope that such conversations might spark ideas about initiatives that could be taken to develop projects which might go forward under the aegis of the Institute.

All seminars will be held at the Institute of Postcolonial Studies, 78-80 Curzon Street, North Melbourne, VIC 3051.

Charges: Waged \$5, Unwaged \$3, Members free

### 7:30pm, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March Resituating Research: Contexts of Engagement

It has become a commonplace that research emanating from the Humanities exists in a 'parallel world'. Its readings fail to connect with the situations whose failings it seeks to expose. There are institutional reasons for this. They include a managerialist culture that increasingly condemns innovation to present itself as a deepening of the same. There seem to be epistemological obstacles: a scientific prohibition on creativity is fatal to the understanding of human affairs in general. Detachment in the study of attachments may sidestep ethical responsibilities, but it ultimately preserves a fictional state, one in which the much-vaunted 'outcomes' rarely find an audience or lead to substantive change. What alternative research environments should we be incubating? How is engaged thought best auspiced? And, what in this situation, is new?

Chair: Homer Le Grand (Professor and Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne, 1994-1999, Dean of Arts, Monash University, 1999-2006, Professor, School of Philosophy and Bioethics, Faculty of Arts, Monash University)

Speakers:

Paul Carter (Honorary Chair, University of Melbourne)  
Pal Ahluwalia, (Pro Vice Chancellor, Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, University of South Australia)

### 7:30pm, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April Corporate Social Responsibility or a New Model?

A tension in a globalising world is the relationship between corporations and society. With cynicism about the 'trickle-down' effect of economic growth, and fears

about the impact of a recession/depression, business is being pressured to be more conscious of society. Can corporate social responsibility re-align business with society or is it simply 'greenwash'? Are businesses responding to real societal needs or have they found a new marketing tool? Should multi-national corporations behave differently when they operate in host countries? Will different forms of social enterprise emerge 'after the meltdown'?

Chair: Professor David Kimber who leads ethics and governance at the IESEG School of Management, Catholic University of Lille, France, and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore

Speakers:

Elizabeth Cham, National Director of Philanthropy, Australia 1996-2006, Senior Fellow, University of Melbourne

Second speaker to be advised.

### 7:30pm, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April Development and War

Making war has come to be seen as paving the way for peace. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the First World's response to Third World conflict. Increasingly political leaders assert that development and security run together: without one you cannot have the other. This feeds into an agenda of state-building, restructuring economies and re-making identities. Refer here to the 2006 AusAID White Paper. Can peacekeeping be done differently? Can development be disentangled from security? What can be done to support local solutions through self-organisation? How might NGOs make a contribution? Or are they too locked into the UN statecentric system?

Chair: Phillip Darby (Director, Institute of Postcolonial Studies)

Speakers:

Deborah Storie (Deputy Chair, TEAR Australia. Deborah worked in Afghanistan from 1992 to 1998 and continues to visit and work there regularly.)

Damian Grenfell, (Research Fellow, Globalism Research Centre, RMIT. Damian has been living and working predominantly in Timor-Leste for the past three years.)

### 10am, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June An all-day series of conversations on Australia: nation, film, the past and the immediate now

In his recent feature film, *Australia*, director Baz Luhrmann presented a series of interesting and engaging problems for historians, scholars of literature, film theorists and critics, as well as anthropologists and others whose work concerns Aboriginal people. Luhrmann blends well-known facts and fiction in an attempt to weave a narrative which explores Australia's northern frontiers, the cattle industry, the stolen generations, Aboriginal assimilation and the destruction of Aboriginal societies while also depicting the

persistence of Aboriginal traditions. The film has had considerable critical acclaim, as well as controversial interrogations by public intellectuals. In this special series of conversations we hope to explore questions about the past and the representations of it in the film *Australia*, excavating the layers of history, stereotypes and the ghost of the past in the “immediate now”. The participants include John Morton of La Trobe University and Lynette Russell of Monash University.

John von Sturmer, Senior Fellow of the Institute, will also initiate a conversation on *With the Image Looking Back...enlivening: who's got it? who wants it?* The compulsion to record, can it ever lead to anything other than the production of a dying art? Through a reflection on his own early engagement with ethnographic film-making and on the strategies currently engaged by Aboriginal film-makers and photographers, John hopes to generate some ideas about the life of the image, the creation of a “wild cinema” against the steady creep of the administered world, and the interplay of image and text.

People interested in presenting at this seminar are invited to contact the Institute.

### Jeff Halper



#### Israel: Victim or Antagonist?

6:30pm, Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
 Union Memorial Church  
 55 Curzon Street  
 North Melbourne 3051

In this public meeting, Jeff Halper will share with the audience how one might begin to reframe Israel as the occupying power rather than the victim. He contends that such an approach can open up new possibilities for conceiving a just peace.

After moving to Israel from the US in 1973, Professor Halper taught anthropology at Haifa and Ben-Gurion Universities. He has also been a peace and human rights activist for more than three decades. In 1997, he co-founded the Israeli Committee against Home Demolitions to challenge and resist the Israeli policy of demolishing Palestinian homes. He was nominated for the 2006 Nobel Prize together with the Palestinian activist Ghassan Andoni.

This seminar is jointly sponsored by the Uniting Church congregation of Mark the Evangelist. Photo of Jeff Halper courtesy of Sonja Karkar

## Book Series: *Writing Past Colonialism*

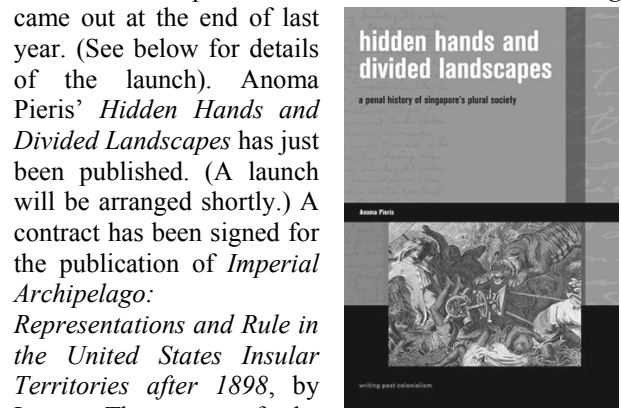
We are delighted to welcome Warwick Anderson, Lynette Russell and Giri Ramasubramanian to the Editorial Board. They join David Bennett, Sally Gardner, Anne Maxwell, Priya Rangan and Phillip Darby (Chair), so we now have a very strong team. Warwick was a foundation member of the Board – which takes us back to 1996 when the series was published by Continuum. Sadly he left us in 2003 to go



to University of Wisconsin-Madison, to take up Robert Turell Chair of Medical History and Population Health. He now holds an appointment as Professorial Research Fellow in the Department of History and the Centre for Values, Ethics, and the Law in Medicine at the University of Sydney. It is great to have him back on board. Lynette is Director of the

Centre of Indigenous Studies and Deputy Dean of the Arts Faculty at Monash. Her edited book, *Boundary Writing*, was one of the trilogy of volumes that launched the new series with University of Hawaii'i Press. Giri Ramasubramanian is a final year honours student in anthropology at the University of Melbourne and will act as secretary to the Board.

It can now confidently be said that the new series has taken off. We have some splendid books just published or about to be published. Paul Carter's *Dark Writing* came out at the end of last year. (See below for details of the launch). Anoma Pieris' *Hidden Hands and Divided Landscapes* has just been published. (A launch will be arranged shortly.) A contract has been signed for the publication of *Imperial Archipelago: Representations and Rule in the United States Insular Territories after 1898*, by Lanny Thompson of the University of Puerto Rico. We have several exciting manuscripts presently at various stages of review.



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### An Invitation

Paul Carter's *Dark Writing: geography, performance, design* will be launched at the Institute by Ruth Fincher, Professor of Geography and Interim Director, Melbourne Institute for a Sustainable Society, University of Melbourne, at 6:30pm, Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March.

RSVP by Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Email: [meg.mundell@materialthinking.com.au](mailto:meg.mundell@materialthinking.com.au)

## Symposium on Social Theory and Historiography in the Writing of Asian Architecture

This symposium, funded by the APRFN Suez to Suva network and the University of Melbourne, was generously hosted by the Institute of Postcolonial Studies. Held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008, it was attended by two overseas speakers: Li Shiqiao from the Chinese University Hong Kong and Lai Chee Kien from the National University of Singapore, and two interstate visitors: Lu Duanfang from the University of Sydney and Peter Scriver from the University of Adelaide. Melbourne participants included Anoma Pieris and Zhu Jianfei as well as recent doctoral graduates and current PhD students John Ting, Maloti Ray, Amanda Achmadi, Eka Permasari Ming Wu and Jia Xu.



Anoma Pieris speaks at the symposium.

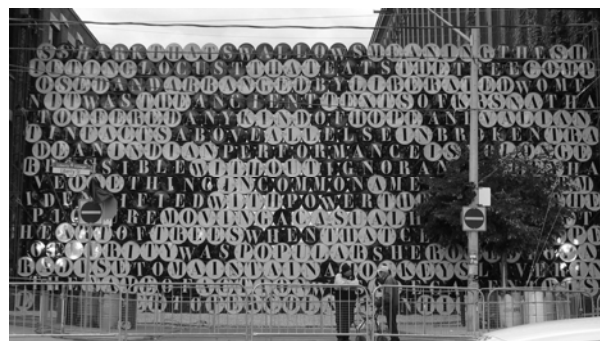
One of the objectives of the symposium was to survey the discourses of architecture and urbanism. It was noted that following a generation of scholarship that benefited from social theory and inter-disciplinary research, scholarship on Asian architecture had changed from earlier empirical studies to critical and reflective engagements with both historical and contemporary topics. One direct result of this is a robust debate on whether it should remain within the fold of Architectural Studies or whether it should become an independent field.

The other main issue discussed concerned the formation of an Asian Society of Architectural Historians. There was a general feeling among participants that while Asian Studies is now well established both in Australia and internationally, the same cannot be said about the field of Asian Architecture. It was suggested that an organisation following the model of SAHANZ and SAH UK and USA could further its development. However, it was argued that the organisation needs to be a regional collaboration between Australia and Asian countries rather than one specific to geography. Based on this line of thinking, a series of conferences to be held in different host countries was envisaged with the NUS agreeing to stage a follow up conference in 2010.

## The extensions of Euphemisms for The Intimate Enemy

At sunset on October 4, 2008 the massive sound installation of Euphemisms for The Intimate Enemy began its 12hr cycle in the City of Toronto. This 12hr sound construction was presented at the corner of Liberty Street and Mowatt Avenue. It was supported by 22 poetic aphorisms printed across 550 oil drums. The idea was to make a transcription (drawing) developed from Ashis Nandy's *The Intimate Enemy*. Transcription means reshaping the sense of the critical writing into a musical or poetic form. A reading of the text was first recorded. Rainer Linz then developed a computer programme that transforms the spoken word into musical forms. His programme was designed to mix the sound and the voice elements together anew at the start of each "performance". This ensures that every 12 hour performance of the work is rendered unique.

Initially *Euphemisms for The Intimate Enemy* was commissioned for Nuit Blanche, an annual all-night outdoor arts festival in Toronto. The installation was part of a section called Multiple Selves - Strange Destinations. This is how Haema Sivanesan, Executive Director of SAVAC South Asian Visual Arts Centre in Toronto, described the motivation behind it: "Drawing on black humour, irony and grotesque beauty, artists explore the furtive and fugitive machinations of societies at cross-roads. From the un-homely perspective of the transnational subject, these artists contend with a contemporary dystopia."



*Euphemisms for The Intimate Enemy*

This rendition of Nandy's text relied on a synthesis of key passages and euphemistic phrasing of his writings. These meta-poetic threads were then woven into two collections of global "sayings" of the day. These collections of literary threads were then arranged and formed in a tonal relationship of kinds. This writing process is a collaged form, locating sound qualities and mixing a semi-sense with a combination of subjects. The sound of the language is constructed to appear publicly as a poetic-prose formed as quasi-philosophic or aphoristic sentence structures. Part of this collage writing system considers the potential for musicalisation as an extension of the page into a given architectural and social environment. The idea of an ephemeral public artwork of this scale offers endless potential in the public domain.

## Overseas Collaborative Research Initiatives

### Security Project

Late last year the Institute was approached by the International Peace Research Institute (PRIO) in Oslo to collaborate on a European Union project on “perspectives from outside the EU on human rights, democracy and peace”. The background to the project was the growing recognition that peacekeeping operations directed to building a “liberal peace” have not delivered the expected dividends. The project aims to review the social, cultural and ethical underpinnings of contemporary First World intervention in situations of conflict with the object of substantially increasing local participation and “ownership”.

The Institute responded that it would be interested in joining the consortium. It pointed out, however, that any postcolonial approach would be critical of the foundational ideas underlying the “liberal peace”. The Institute would therefore wish to have some significant input into the larger shape of the project. This was acceptable to the programme leaders at PRIO. The proposal thus goes forward to the EU with Institute involvement.



*Michael Roberts (R) in animated conversation with members of the audience after his talk on the politics of the commemorative practices of the Tamil Tigers on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008.*

### Charges against Ashis Nandy Failing to Convince

Criminal charges brought against Ashis Nandy, with the connivance of the Modi government in Gujarat, for allegedly “inflaming” communal hatred seem unlikely to be pursued with any vigour, let alone to be taken too seriously. At an interim Supreme Court hearing in Delhi last July, two judges spoke dismissively about the charges. The court gave anticipatory bail, squashing the police summons. In the process it sharply censured the Gujarat government. The case will go to the High Court in late March or April. We have conveyed to Ashis and Uma our distress at their personal harassment and our unqualified support for Ashis’ stand.

### Postcolonial Theology and Theory

The IPCS has been engaged, since October 2008, in correspondence with a group of theologians from the Lincoln Institute located within the University of Manchester. The spokesperson for the group is Joe Duggan who has focussed his doctoral work on a postcolonial critique of those metaphysical principles foundational to the shape of Christian unity which have created “the other”. Joe is keen to interest the IPCS in a series of biennial conferences which are planned for different parts of the globe, with the next one scheduled for Bangalore, India, in 2010.

The first conference was held in Manchester in 2008 and the papers are expected to be available in the next few months as a special edition of the *Journal of Anglican Studies* published by Cambridge University Press. When available, these should be helpful in providing us with greater insight into the nature and quality of the discourse as it is presently occurring.

The January 2012 conference is scheduled for Australia. It will be hosted by Whitley College within the Melbourne College of Divinity. Dr Brett, who is Whitley’s nominated link with Lincoln Institute in matters pertaining to the conference, is author of the recently published book entitled *Decolonising God* (Sheffield: Phoenix Press, 2008). The IPCS has undertaken to publicise the conference through our network and, in due course, to assist in whatever way we can.

Postcolonial theologies are not new, but their deliberate and specific inclusion in both theological and broader postcolonial studies is becoming more pronounced. The work of the Lincoln Institute and its approach to the IPCS is one such example. Another which came to my attention recently was an article entitled “Postcolonialism and Biblical Studies” by Francisco Lozada Jr in the August 2008 edition of *New Theology Review* (the theological journal of the Catholic Theological Union Chicago and the Washington Theological Union), in an issue devoted to Catholic Imagination and Identity.

Postcolonial theology has a direct relevance to the broader fields of both theology and postcolonial studies. It provides its practitioners with the capacity to open up critical discourses which are also emancipatory. It does this by uncovering language, interpretation and narratives which have been responsible for creating alienation and shaping the idea of “the other” (Lozada p. 73).

We look forward to a continuing and fruitful association with the dynamic Lincoln Institute group. Clearly, the area of postcolonial theology also provides the IPCS with a new and challenging area of focus for its own intellectual endeavours devoted to righting the legacies of colonialism. *(Those who are interested in participating in the project should contact Dr. Therese D’Orsa, who is a Council member of the Institute as well as Head of Missiology, Broken Bay Institute. Postal address: PO Box340 Pennant Hills NSW 1715. Email: [tdorsa@dcsi.net.au](mailto:tdorsa@dcsi.net.au))*

## Casting a wider Net

The existing website goes back more than a decade. After an early initiative on the part of Rob McQueen, Simon Obendorf was responsible for the actual design of the site. With minimal resources, Simon maintained and developed the site until 2006 when he took a position in Singapore. Since then the website has soldiered on without significant change. Liz Greig is currently undertaking the job of uploading existing content to the Institute's newly designed website: "It's going to be a really great way to connect a bit further afield and keeping in touch a bit better than the current website does." The new website, which will be launched in the first half of 2009, will be equipped with a redesigned layout and users will find it much easier to interact with the Institute and one another.

Furthermore, Benjamin Teicher has taken the initiative in setting up the Institute's new facebook. And this has already raised the profile of the Institute. "We've been contacted by a young student in Indonesia who was interested in making a connection with the institute. It's great that it creates a forum between people, especially in the postcolonial world and between the settler-colonial and colonial-colonial countries."

Giri Remasubramanian is now responsible for moderating the Institute's future blog site. He says that the informal nature of the blog creates an especially stimulating forum for thought and debate. While the blog will be closely associated with the Institute and many of the contributors would be heavily involved in its activities, it will retain a large degree of autonomy. "A blog can be like having a very intelligent conversation with someone who is an expert in an area. At the same time it's not as stifling as the sort of things you often read in a journal paper or even in an academic book." Giri enthuses that unlike the journal or the newsletter, the blog will be uniquely placed to respond to events as they occur. Best of all, in connecting with a wider audience, Giri and his fellow bloggers will be able to access a postcolonial view from the margins. "In that sense, having a greater online presence and writing a blog is very compatible with the Institute's goals."

### Occasional Paper No.4 is out

Occasional Paper No.4 in the Institute's Occasional Papers Series was published in November 2008. Entitled "North-South Relations: A Postcolonial Agenda", it was co-authored by a group of scholars from the Department of International Relations at Jadavpur University in Calcutta, India. They are: Partha Pratim Basu, Shibashis Chatterjee, Anjali Ghosh and Sumita Sen. The paper was a response to Occasional Paper No.3 "A Postcolonial International Relations" written by a team from the Institute. Apart from our colleagues in Calcutta, The Institute also wishes to express its gratitude to Series editors Matt Clancy and Devika Goonewardene for their editorial effort. The paper can be purchased from the Institute at a modest price of \$5.



*Ros Bandt (L) with Kumi Kato at the launch of her CD "Isobue" on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2008. The CD is dedicated to the Japanese Ama women freedivers, whose Isobue (sea whistle) embodies the rituals and sustainable fishing practices they have maintained for hundreds of years, caring for the deep sea environment.*

## Subscriptions

You can now take out - or renew - a membership subscription online by pointing your browser to <http://www.ipcs.org.au/join.html>. You will need to sign up to the PayPal system the first time you use the system. After that, payments can be made by credit card or transfer from a bank account. Please note that subscriptions taken out online will automatically renew each year - you can cancel your subscription at any time by visiting <http://www.ipcs.org.au/join.html>. Members can also pay their subscriptions in person at IPCS or by cheque mailed to the Institute.

*Annual subscription rates are as follows:*

Student Membership:	\$20 per annum
Student Membership (including subscription to <i>Postcolonial Studies</i> ):	\$60 per annum
Ordinary Membership:	\$40 per annum
Ordinary Membership (including subscription to <i>Postcolonial Studies</i> ):	\$80 per annum
Corporate Membership:	\$100 per annum

## Donations

Donations to the Institute can now also be made online. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible for Australian taxpayers. To donate online, please visit our homepage at <http://www.ipcs.org.au/>

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