



yacker

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THE EDWARD A. CLARK CENTER FOR AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

ANZSANA & AAALS in Ft. Worth

ANZSANA and AAALS will hold their 2011 annual joint conferences at the Worthington Renaissance Hotel in Ft. Worth, Texas, Thursday evening to Saturday afternoon, February 17-19. Each association will hold a series of panels open to attendees of either conference. The Hon. Kim Beazley, Australia's Ambassador to the U.S., has been invited to participate, as has the current holder of the Harvard Chair in Australian Studies, Prof. Jeff Borland, a Melbourne University economist specializing on Australia's labor markets. ANZSANA paper proposals should be submitted to Greg Flynn (gregflynn@rogers.com) or Patricia O'Brien (pao4@georgetown.edu), and AAALS proposals should go to Nicholas Birns (birnsn@newschool.edu). The conference registration fee is \$140.00 (US or CD) and covers the Thursday reception plus lunches on Friday and Saturday, with the Friday dinner costing extra.

The Worthington Renaissance Fort Worth Hotel (1-817-870-1000) is in the heart of Ft Worth and is offering a special room rate at of \$139/night (plus taxes) if booked by FRIDAY, 21 JANUARY 2011 and if conference affiliation is indicated. Association websites are www.anzsana.net and www.australianliterature.org. Hotel information is at <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dfwdt-renaissance-worthington-hotel-fort-worth/>.

Australia and Texas: Comparing Energy Challenges

Energy-related similarities between Australia and Texas are striking: nearly identical population sizes; fossil fuel rich economies; integrated electricity grids; disaggregated utilities and deregulated electricity markets; high per capita carbon emissions; strong interest in carbon capture and storage; ample wind and other renewable energy sources; equivalent vulnerabilities to a global regime aimed at stemming climate change.

Collaborating with Cameron O'Reilly, CEO of Energy Retailers Assn. of Australia and a Fulbright Alliance Fellow at UT-Austin during 2009, the Clark Center and UT's Energy Institute are launching a research project to examine energy challenges to Australia and Texas. The project enlists ten specialists – five from Australia, five from UT-Austin – for workshops in Sydney and Austin during 2011 aimed at producing papers that will inform and assist policy makers in Canberra and Austin. The project focuses on a handful of key challenges: economics and technology carbon capture & storage; coal mine rehabilitation; integrating wind into energy markets and problems of wind supply reliability; developing shale and coal-seam methane gas; water shortages and their intersection with energy production; carbon pricing and other policy uncertainties; demand-side management, outage reporting, harnessing power, and other benefits of a Smart Grid.

Message from the Director

Much of the past six months have gone to editing papers (and paying bills!) from conferences the Clark Center co-sponsored with Monash University's Institute for Global Development and with Sydney University's Law School last May. I've edited five papers by UT-Austin and other US scholars examining US immigration policy under the rubric of "harder times" that have followed the onset of deep economic recession in 2008. John Nieuwenhuysen and Stine Neerup at the Monash Institute have edited a comparable set of papers dealing with the somewhat rosier but still politically touchy immigration picture in Australia since 2008. This work is now finished and a volume is entering production at Edward Elgar Publishers. Meanwhile, Rhoñda Evans Case and Rainer Knopff (Univ. of Calgary) have edited ten papers stemming from the Sydney Law conference about judicial supremacy in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the U.S.

Some of the fall semester has gone to designing a comparative study of energy challenges Australia and Texas confront (see p. 1). For me, this has entailed the novel experience of working with two no-nonsense UT-Austin professors of engineering, Charles ("Chip") Groat, who headed the 10,000-employee U.S. Geological Survey during the 1990s, and Australian expatriate Ross Baldick, a prominent electrical and computing engineer.

The fall has also afforded an opportunity to welcome Prof. Philippa Levine, who has joined UT-Austin's History Department from the Univ. of Southern California. After completing degrees at Cambridge and Oxford, Philippa was a member of the History faculty at Flinders University, where she acquired an abiding interest in Australian matters. Her arrival in Austin deepens significantly the Clark Center's roster of affiliated faculty with Australian interests.

Another part of the fall has seen Frances Cushing and yours truly helping ANZSANA organize its upcoming conference in Ft. Worth (also p. 1). Let me warn northerly American and Canadian readers that Ft. Worth in mid-February is unlikely to have winter charms. Indeed, if you can bear them, temperatures will probably be in the 70s. Put differently, you should come to Ft. Worth!

John Higley

Fall Semester Visitors

James Curran, Univ. of Sydney and U.S. Studies Centre
Cameron O'Reilly, Energy Retailers Assn. of Australia and former Fulbright Scholar
Lydia Wevers, Victoria Univ. Wellington and Senior Fulbright Scholar at CANZ

Recent Publications

John Higley. *Elites e Democracia*. Lisbon: Livros Horizonte, 2010 (165 pp.).
_____. "Elite Theory and Elites." Pp. 161-176 in *Handbook of Politics: State and Society in Global Perspective*. C. Jenkins & K. Leicht, eds., New York: Springer, 2010
_____. "Postindustrial Elite and Non-Elite Insecurities." *Corvinus Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 1:61-75

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