



Invitation to
Symposium on Migrations and Multiculturalism Today: Australian
and European Perspectives
organised by
Research Centre for European Thought, University of Tasmania with
the Embassy the Republic of Poland and
The Australian Institute of Polish Affairs (AIPA)
at Parliament House, Hobart, Friday 25 November 2011, 9.15 am to 3 pm

We would be delighted if you could join us at a **Symposium on Migrations and Multiculturalism Today: Australian and European Perspectives**. This is a collaborative project between the UTAS Research Centre for European Thought, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Canberra (co-funding the visit of three European scholars), and the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs (AIPA co-organiser) in a form of a symposium focusing on migrations and multiculturalism. Both areas attract wide public attention and trigger lively political debates. Such debates are timely and highly relevant to Australia and Europe.

The main purpose of the Symposium is to compare the Australian and EU perspectives on immigration and multiculturalism and stimulate informed public debate on the related issues, especially in the context of similar problems and challenges facing Australia and the EU nations. The Symposium also aims at bringing together people with shared interest and expertise in migration and multiculturalism: the top academics (from both continents), government officials, community leaders and media representatives whose discussion will enhance our understanding of migration and multiculturalism in and beyond Australia.

The process of globalisation reduces the distances between societies and forces us to deal with increasingly similar list of challenges and strategic choices. Intensifying mass migrations – controlled and uncontrolled – and the resulting widening ethno-cultural diversity of all societies, poses a series of questions and challenges that are very similar in contemporary Australia and European Union. How to respond to increasing (and not always controllable) migrations? How to deal, on the national level, with widening ethno-cultural diversity of societies? How to prevent this diversification from becoming the force of socio-cultural disintegration, ethnic fracturing and

ethno-cultural segmentation? What policy strategies should we follow in order to secure social integration, cohesion and harmony? How successful, in these respects, have been multicultural policies? What is the political future of multiculturalism – in Australia and Europe?

Addressing these questions in the context of an academic symposium becomes a standard element of informed public debates that prepare and reshape national policies. Moreover, such a comparison of experiences, perspectives and strategies gives us a unique opportunity to view the migration and multicultural policies in a broad comparative perspective, to bring to the debates the experiences of unifying Europe, and to highlight the major achievements of European social thought. The benefits from such a symposium will flow both ways. Australian academics and leaders will have an opportunity to have a closer look the European perspectives and experiences. It will also offer an opportunity for visiting Polish and EU experts to familiarise themselves with the Australian experiences and perspectives on migration and multiculturalism. Last but not least, such an exchange of experiences and perspectives is particularly important at the time Poland takes the presidency of the European Union.

DATE AND FORMAT

The symposium will be held at Parliament House, Hobart, on Friday 25 November, 9.15 am to 3 pm. It will include presentations by invited academic experts and panel discussion (Q&A format). All presentations will have c. 30 min. time slots (20 min presentation + 10 minutes discussion), in two sessions, followed by a panel discussion and a Q&A session. The discussion will include invited academics, community leaders, government officials, prominent journalists, and public intellectuals. Morning and afternoon coffee/teas and lunch will be provided.

THE SPEAKERS

Prof. Stefan Auer is Jean Monnet Chair in EU Interdisciplinary Studies, Senior Lecturer in History and Politics at La Trobe University. Prior to this, he was Academic Director of the Dublin European Institute, University College Dublin. His book, *Liberal Nationalism in Central Europe* (2004) won the prize for Best Book in European Studies (2005) with the University Association for contemporary European Studies (UACES).

Dr Pawel Kaczmarczyk, Faculty of Economic Sciences at University of Warsaw, Head of the Central and East European Economic Research Centre (University of Warsaw), guest lecturer in Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Universitait Maastricht, the Netherlands. His research interests and publications are in the areas of migration and economic development.

Dr Magdalena Lesinska, Deputy Director of Centre of Migration Research; member of IMISCOE Research Network (International Migration Integration and Social Cohesion). She coordinates research on migration and writes on the issues of migration and ethnic relations in Poland and the European Union.

Prof. Andrew Markus holds the Pratt Foundation Chair of Jewish Civilisation. He is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and is a past Head of Monash University's School of Historical Studies, working in the field of migration and Australian race relations. He is the author, editor or co-editor of numerous books, including *Australia's Immigration Revolution* (2009 - with J. Jupp and P. McDonald), *Race: John Howard and the Remaking of Australia* (2001), *Building a New Community. Immigration and the Victorian Economy* (2001).

Professor Marek Okólski is Professor at the Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of

Warsaw, the founder and Director of the Centre of Migration Research and Chairman of the Committee for Migration Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, as well as member of *International Union for Scientific Study of Population*, the *European Association of Population Studies*, the *Academic Advisory Committee of International Organization for Migration*, and the *Advisory Board of Eurasyllum*. He is author of 21 books and over 250 research papers and articles, including *European Populations*, *International Migration in Europe*, and *Immigration to Poland*.

Professor Jan Pakulski is Professor of Sociology at the University of Tasmania, Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, and Fellow of the Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality at Stanford University. His book publications include *The Death of Class* (1996; with M. Waters), *Globalizing Inequalities* (2004), and *Toward Leader Democracy* (2011, with A. Korosenyi). He is foundation member of the RCET and President of the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs.

PROGRAM

9.15 - Opening

9.30 - 11.00 - Migration and Multiculturalism in Australia

Andrew Markus 'Australian attitudes to immigration and cultural diversity'

Stefan Auer 'Thilo Sarrazin: a German taboo breaker, or an enemy of multiculturalism?'

Jan Pakulski 'Confusions about multiculturalism'

11.00 - 11.15 - morning coffee/tea

11.15 - 1.00 - Migration and Multiculturalism in Europe

Marek Okolski 'Old and New Patterns of European Migrations'

Pawel Kaczmarczyk 'Migration and Development: An European Perspective'

Magdalena Lesinska 'Migration and Integration Policy In Multicultural Europe. Present and Future Challenges'

1.00 - 1.30 - Lunch

1.30 - 3.00 – The Challenges of Migration and Multiculturalism

Panel Discussion + Q&A

3.00 – Cocktail