

Conference Notice

Bicameralism: Australia in Comparative Context

Sponsored by the Parliamentary Studies Centre, ANU
Parliament House, Canberra, 9-10 October 2008

This free conference will locate the Australian Senate, and selected aspects of Australian state parliamentary arrangements, in an international context of bicameral parliamentary systems. Bicameralism refers not simply to the role of second chambers in parliamentary systems but also to the political management of inter-cameral relationships. This two-day international conference is one of series of research activities organised through the Parliamentary Studies Centre at the Australian National University. The conference on Bicameralism is part of a three year research project on 'Strengthening Legislative Institutions' sponsored by the Australian Research Council (ARC) through a Linkage Grant involving the ANU and the Departments of the Senate and of the House of Representatives in the Australian Parliament.

The aim of the Bicameralism conference is to investigate trends in bicameralism in Australia and to relate these trends to international developments in bicameral parliamentary systems. Day One will be devoted to the Australian scene at national and state level. Day Two will examine international developments with reports from bicameral parliamentary systems around the world. The papers from the conference will be considered for publication in the one of the edited research collections arising from this ARC research project.

Confirmed speakers include: Professor Anthony Mughan, Ohio State University; Dr Meg Russell, University College London; Professor John Owens, Westminster University, London; Professor Campbell Sharman, University of British Columbia, Canada; Professor Janet Hiebert, Queens University, Canada; Dr Stanley Bach, Washington DC, USA; Dr Riccardo Pelizzo, Griffith University, Brisbane; Dr Ashok Acharya, University of Delhi, India; Dr Stephen Sherlock, Indonesia; Dr Bruce Stone, University of Western Australia; Dr Richard Herr, University of Tasmania; Professor Brian Costar, Swinburne University, Melbourne.

Preliminary Draft Program

Day One: Australian Developments

8.30am-9.15am Opening Session:
'Australian Bicameralism: How Does it Improve Government?'
Senior Government Minister

short break

9.15am-10.30am 'Looking Forward: Priorities for Australian Bicameralism'
Three political party representatives: Opposition; Greens; Australian Democrats

coffee

11am-12.30pm 'Canberra Compared: Experience with State Systems'
Four Senators with State experience

lunch

1.30pm-3.00pm 'State Innovations in Bicameralism'
Panel of State parliamentary officials and academics

coffee

3.30pm-5.00pm 'Australia and the Asia Pacific Region'
Panel of parliamentary officials and academics

Day Two: International Developments

8.30am-9.15am Opening Keynote Speaker:
'Ten Things You Should Know about Contemporary Bicameralism'
Professor Anthony Mughan
Co-editor, *Senates: Bicameralism in the Contemporary World* (1999)
Director, International Studies,
Ohio State University, USA

9.15am-10.30am:
'US Bicameralism in Theory and Practice'
Dr Stan Bach (USA); Professor John Owens (Westminster University))

coffee

11am-12.30pm:
'European Arrangements, Old and New: UK and Italy'
Dr Meg Russell (University College London); Dr Riccardo Pelizzo (Griffith University,
Australia)

lunch

1.30pm-3.00pm:
'Bicameralism and Federalism in Canada'
Prof Janet Hiebert (Queens University, Canada); Prof Campbell Sharman (UBC, Canada)

coffee

3.30pm-5.00pm:

'Asian Innovations: India and Japan'

Dr Ashok Acharya (U Delhi); Dr Yusaku Horiuchi (Crawford School, ANU)

close

Contact:

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