University of the Sunshine Coast
Queensland, Australia

Centre for Multicultural and Community Development

International conference on

Racisms in the New World Order:

Realities of Culture, Colour and Identity Conference

Conference Proceedings

8-9 December 2005

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Department of the Premier and Cabinet

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CALOUNDRA CITY

International Conference on

Racism in the New World Order: Realities of Colour, Culture and Identity

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International Conference on
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Introduction

> What is evident, then is that racism is an ideology that is continually changing, being challenged, interrupted and reconstructed, and which often appears in contradictory forms. As such, its reproduction in schools, and elsewhere can be expected to be complex, multifaceted and historically specific…specific forms of racism can be expected to change, and inherited racist discourses are likely to be reconstituted. New circumstances are likely to lead to new formulations of racism. (Troyna 1993:15)

Racism is a significant social problem that affects our society. It diminishes the social fabric of society, creates social tension and impacts on the life chances of people involved. Racism impacts upon both those who perpetuate it and those who are on the 'receiving end'. 'Race' and 'racism' are value-laden notions perpetuated through coded societal messages and public discourses on immigration, ethnic minorities, indigenous people, multiculturalism, refugees and citizenship. In many contemporary nations, such as Australia, discourses on race and culture have formed the basis of nation building and have determined who is included and who is considered the 'other'. Although racism is a reality in the lives of many people around the world, it is largely a silent or invisible issue. Many writers have noted that the lack of questioning of power relations in society results in a continued silence on the topics of racism and discrimination.

The *International Conference on Racisms in the New World Order: Realities of Culture, Colour and Identity* was held on 8-9 December 2005, at Hyatt Regency Coolum, Queensland, Australia. The Conference provided a forum for dialogue on sensitive but critical issues relating to racism. The Conference enabled an opportunity to examine contemporary manifestations of racism across the world, engage in theorising on racism, identify manifestations of racism in a globalised world and develop strategies to combat racism.

The aims of the Conference were to:

- create dialogue on theory and practice of racism,
- share information on experiences of racism in a global context,
- identify issues in policy and program responses to combat racism,
- determine strategies and education tools to increase community awareness,
- showcase best practice and innovative programs,
- create an impetus for change and development, and
- place racism in public discourses.

The conference had themes and sub-themes linked with the general topic. Presentations were made under the following themes:

- Media and racism
- Geography of racism
- Official Racism
- Racism and the War on Terror
- Racisms in the New World Order

- New Manifestations of Racism
- Responses to Racism

The Conference themes emphasised the intersectionality of racism with other factors such as gender, age, sexuality, ability and class, and highlighted the need for taking a multilayered approach in ongoing dialogues about the topic. The two-day Conference Program included keynote speakers, small-group workshops, paper presentations, and discussions sessions. There were also networking opportunities and showcasing of international good practice.

The Conference was attended by national and international participants, and included academics, community development workers, policy makers and other government officials, media as well as community members who experience racism.

The Conference had an Advisory Committee comprising members who have significant expertise on issues relating to racism. They provided important direction to the content and format of the Conference. Without their valuable contribution the Conference would not have been the great success that it was.

This publication, the proceedings of the conference, is a compilation of papers presented at the Conference. It is in two sections. The first section consists of papers that have gone through an academic refereed process. Each paper in this section has been blind-refereed by two other academic peers. The second section contains unrefereed papers.

Mr. Narayan Gopalkrishan and Dr Hurriyet Babacan
Conference Conveners
International Conference on Racisms in the New World Order: Realities of Culture, Colour and Identity December 2006

Acknowledgments

As Conference Conveners, we would like to acknowledge the valuable work and contribution of people who have made the International *Conference on Racisms in the New World Order: Realities of Culture, Colour and Identity a success.*

Firstly we would like to acknowledge the work of **Ms Mitra Khakbaz**, the Coordinator of Centre for Multicultural and Community Development, University of the Sunshine Coast, for her tireless work in organising the Conference. Mitra held different elements of the Conference together and ensured that the Conference ran smoothly. We would also like to acknowledge the work of Ms Robyn Middleton, Administration Officer, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, University of the Sunshine Coast, who looked after the financial management of the conference prior and through the event and Ms Pamela Edsall, Administration Assistant USC, for her support and tireless effort on two days of the conference.

Secondly, we would like to thank the members of the **Advisory Committee** for their valuable ideas, vision and direction. The members of the Committee are:

Mr. David Hollinsworth - author, consultant, academic

Professor Jock Collins - University of Technology, Sydney

Associate Professor David Ip - University of Queensland

Associate Professor Linda Briskman - RMIT University

Dr Leela De Mal - Department of Premier and Cabinet, Western Australia

Mr. Abd-Elmasih Malak - Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia (FECCA)

Mr. Kelly Yip - Department of Premier and Cabinet, Queensland

Ms Karen Stanley - Department of Immigration and Multicultural & Indigenous Affairs

Ms Leanne Tu'ipuloto - Brisbane City Council

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- Department of Premier and Cabinet, Queensland Government
- Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland Government
- Caloundra City Council

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Finally we would like to thank the **speakers and participants**, not only for attending the Conference but for being interactive and engaging on this critical issue.