

Promoting Dissent, Reviving Democracy

Consider these statements:
World War II was won by The Allies.

The world now is a more dangerous place than at the end of the Cold War in 1990.

The enemy in the invasion of Iraq was the regime of Saddam Hussein.

The most powerful country on earth is the United States of America.

Right? Think again.

All the above statements are representations of conflicts, all are partial and often misleading. They squeeze out the views and voices of peace and non-violence.

To hear those voices and to revive debates about the nature of democracy, we need to promote a culture of dissent so argues the new director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS), Associate Professor Jake Lynch.

Assoc Prof Lynch will deliver

the Sydney Peace Foundation 10th anniversary lecture on 23 July 2007.

He takes over from Emeritus Professor Stuart Rees who recently retired as Director of CPACS.

Assoc Prof Lynch wrote eloquently in the [March issue of Peacewrites](#), one of our tasks is "to champion the principles of peace and non-violence here and now. We have an enormous amount of social capital to work with, especially the values so many Australians still share – the fair go, of course, and openness to other cultures and traditions, as well as Primo Levi's principle of social responsibility: if not us, who? If not now, when?"



Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies



The University of Sydney

Sydney Peace Foundation 10th Anniversary Lecture

Promoting Dissent, Reviving Democracy



By

Associate Professor Jake Lynch

Chair: Professor Stephen Garton, Dean of Arts, University of Sydney

Old Geology Lecture Theatre
University of Sydney
Monday 23 July 2007
6pm for 6.30pm
Entry by gold coin donation

Global Peace Index Launched

The world's first index measuring peace - the Global Peace Index - was launched on 30 May.

The Sydney Peace Foundation, including our Chairman, Mr Alan Cameron AM and Director, Professor Emeritus Stuart Rees AM have lent their support to the index. Sydney Peace Prize recipients, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Olara Otunnu have also endorsed the Index which ranks countries by their "absence of violence". The Index uses metrics that combine both internal and external indicators of peacefulness.

Australian entrepreneur and philanthropist Steve Killelea is the brains behind the Index. Mr Killelea told the *BBC* that the Index "is a wake-up call for leaders around the globe. Countries need to become more peaceful to solve the major challenges that the world faces - from climate change to decreasing biodiversity...it is now crucial for world leaders and business to take a lead".

The Index is developed by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Norway topped the list of the world's most peaceful nation, while the least peaceful was Iraq, ranked 121. Australia came in 25th after Uruguay. The US ranked 96th, between Yemen and Iran.

For the full list, visit the [GPI website](#) by clicking on the link.

Short Takes

Dr Hans Blix in Sydney

Dr Hans Blix will deliver the 2007 City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture on Wednesday 7 November 2007. He will receive the award at a gala dinner and award ceremony on Thursday 8 November 2007 in the Great Hall, University of Sydney.

Tickets for both events will be on sale later in the year. Details to be announced.

Desmond Tutu fronts *Vanity Fair*

1999 Sydney Peace Prize recipient Archbishop Desmond Tutu is gracing the cover of the July issue of *Vanity Fair*.

Read about it and other news about Sydney Peace Prize recipients in the *SPF blog* @ <http://sydneypeacefoundation.wordpress.com/> or [click here](#) to go to the blog.