



Sociability and its Discontents:

Civil Society, Social Capital, and their Alternatives in European and Australian Society

This conference has assembled scholars researching fundamental concepts of trust and community upon which all civil societies - including our own - depend, and which Robert Putnam has recently described as 'social capital'.* The conference traces, examines and critiques the concept of social capital across a range of periods and societies, from Ancient Rome, Medieval Europe, Renaissance and Early-Modern Italy, to the Ottoman Empire, modern and contemporary Britain, Australia and America. Papers scrutinise a large range of historical themes including poverty, compassion and caregiving, bonds of obligation and trust, patterns of community, employment, social activism, piety and religious belief. The conference also investigates phenomena that complicate, challenge or undermine social capital, such as anger and anxiety, violence, scandal, envy and rivalry.

*See Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1993)

Sponsored by: School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry (SOPHI), University of Sydney; the ARC Network for Early European Research (NEER)

Friday August 19 (evening), Saturday August 20, Sunday August 21, 2005

Education Lecture Theatre 351, Education Building A35, Manning Rd, University of Sydney

PAPERS

Keynote speaker - Professor Nicholas Terpstra (History, University of Toronto): *Making Democracy Fit: Dynamics of Civil and Uncivil Society*

Kavita Ayer (Ancient History, Macquarie University): *Poverty as Social Capital? The Intersection of Status, Society and Identity in Ancient Rome*

Loretta Baldassar (Anthropology and Sociology, University of Western Australia): *From Europe with Love(?): Transnational Families, Caregiving and Post-War Australian Migration*

Marc Brodie (Historical Studies, Monash University): *The Benefits of a Lack of Social Capital: Distrust and Politics in British Society in the 18th and 19th Centuries*

Diana Covell (History, University of Sydney): *Social Capital in the Service of Social Justice: the Wollongong Jobs for Women Campaign Experience*

Carole Cusack (Studies in Religion, University of Sydney): *The Future of Australian Secularism: Religion, Civil Society and Social Capital*

Nick Doumanis (History, University of New South Wales): *Re-Diagnosing Europe's Sick Man: Social Capital in Rural Asia Minor, c. 1878-1912*

Nick Eckstein (History, University of Sydney): *Pittori, Amici e Vicini: Formal and Informal Bonds of Community Amongst Florentine Artists*

David Garrioch (Historical Studies, Monash University): *From Religious to Secular Sociability: Some Eighteenth-Century European Examples*

Ivan Head (St Paul's College, University of Sydney): *The Reality and Disillusions of Human Violence: Apollonius of Tyana as a Theoretical Locus for the Dark Side of Human Bonding*

Hugh Hudson (Art History, Melbourne University): *Paolo Uccello and the Confraternity of Saint Peter Martyr: Themes of Reciprocal Obligation in Life and Art*

Nerida Newbigin (Italian Studies, University of Sydney): *Hunting Brings Down Government: Scandalo and its Uses in fifteenth-century Florence*

Mark Peel (History, Monash University): *Deficits and Credits: Social Capital, Anxiety and Privilege in Twentieth-Century Australia and America*

Anne M. Scott (English, University of Western Australia): *What Shall We Do with the Old Man? Fear of Old Age Neglect as Portrayed in Fourteenth-Century English Literature*

Charles Zika (History, Melbourne University): *Social Capital and Pilgrimage in Early Modern Germany*

Registration: \$25.00 (\$20.00 if booking and paying in advance)

Lunches, morning and afternoon teas included. Conference dinner at individuals' own expense at a local restaurant (to be announced) on the evening of Saturday August 20.

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Convenor: Nick Eckstein

CONFERENCE



The University of Sydney