

Speaker Biographies

Peter Sutherland

Chairman of the UN Global Commission for Migration

Mr. Sutherland – a former Attorney General of Ireland, former European Union Commissioner and former Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the World Trade Organisation is currently chairman of BP plc. He is also honorary Ambassador for the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and has previously been a member of the Commission on Human Security. He is currently Chairman of the UN Global Commission for Migration.

Bishop Nicholas Di Marzio,

Bishop DiMarzio has completed Doctoral Studies in Migration. He headed the US Bishop's Conference of Global Migration and formed the basis of their migration policy. As a member of the UN Global Commission for Migration he has many reflections on the shortcomings in global policy, with special regard for the weak and valuable.

Professor Desmond Cahill

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Professor of Intercultural Studies at the RMIT (Melbourne Institute of Technology)

Professor Cahill is a leading light in the study of multiculturalism and has advised the Australian Government on the role of religious groups and faith in society. He has extended his brief to include education and the impact that multiculturalism has on the education system and schools in general.

Personal Profile

In 1993, Desmond Cahill became the first-ever Professor of Intercultural Studies in an Australian university in recognition of his expertise in the areas of cross-cultural communication, multicultural and international education, and anti-racist education, world population movements, the history and pattern of immigrant settlement, ethnic community development, bilingualism and biculturalism, ethnic minority youth, cultural diversity policy development and evaluation, globalization, and the interrelationship between religion and culture.

Professor Cahill has worked at RMIT University (including previously at Coburg State College and Phillip Institute of Technology) since 1979; he established and managed until 1991 the Associate Diploma of Ethnic Studies begun in 1981 and the Bachelor of Arts (Multicultural Studies) begun in 1986 and both of which he had designed; in 1997-98, together with Professor Michael Singh he developed, as a partial replacement course, the undergraduate program in international studies which initiated and managed between 1999 and 2002; it is built around the three constructs of (1) global-local interconnectedness (2) cultural, linguistic and religious diversity and (3) international and cross-cultural professional practice.

In the early 1980s, he was responsible for the development of the Vietnamese and Greek programs, leading in the case of the former to many initiatives in Vietnamese community development in Australia and many major projects by RMIT in Vietnam and in the case of the latter a special Greek Centre, funded partly by the Greek community.

Teaching/Work responsibilities

- International Studies 1 (Global Processes)
- Cross-Cultural Communication
- Working with Immigrant and Refugee Youth
- Immigrants, Ethnic Communities and the Criminal Justice System
- Globalization and Cultural Diversity: Contemporary Perspectives

Professor Cahill's publications and research projects have focused on the following cultural groups in Australia, namely, Argentine, British, Cambodian, Chilean, Dutch, Filipino, Greek, Italian, Lebanese, Maltese, Polish, Turkish, Uruguayan, and Vietnamese and in the countries of Japan, Switzerland and Vietnam, and on the following religious groups: Buddhist, Christian, Muslim and Taoist. He was for a time editor of Migration Monitor, Australian correspondent for Asian Migrant, editor of the Journal of Vietnamese Studies and is presently on the editorial board of the Asian and Pacific Migration Journal.

Current Research Projects:

- Indochinese prisoners, imprisonment and drug rehabilitation (with M. Benes) : this project funded by Moreland Hall, an agency of the Uniting Church, has investigated the imprisonment of prisoners from Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian backgrounds in Victoria's high security jail, and developed strategies for their drug rehabilitation and re-adjustment to society. (completed in 2001)
- Priests on the Move: The history of the Scalabrini priests in Australia and Asia 1952 - 2002 (to be completed in 2002): this project funded by the Scalabrini religious order focuses on a group of Italian priests who arrived in Australia in 1952 to work among Italian immigrants, and extended their work to the Philippines, Taiwan and other parts of Asia and the Middle East in their care for Filipino contract workers moving around Asia and the Middle East. It is essentially a history of the Italian Catholic community in Australia. (to be completed in 2002)
- Religion, cultural diversity and globalization: this is an ongoing research project, particularly after September 11 th., which is examining the interface between the forces of global-local interconnectedness and religious resurgence across the world. The major paper delivered at the CHOGM Conference in Brisbane is available on the Commonwealth Institute website in London. A major colloquium to be held at RMIT University in September will bring together scholars to examine the core issues following the New York terrorist attacks (ongoing)
- Religion, Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion in Contemporary Australia: Professor Cahill as chief researcher is working with the Australian Multicultural Foundation in a project funded by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs in the wake

of September 11 th.. The project involves consultations with the heads of faith in every Australian State and Territory, case studies of 14 local faith communities in urban and rural Australia, an electronic consultation held with the Australian people, the production of educational materials on Islam and the development of a kit for inter-faith co-operation at grassroots level as well as examining the feasibility of an Australian Inter-Faith Council to advise government. (to be completed early in 2003)

Professor Cahill has led major projects at the highest level of government, especially in the areas of immigrant and multicultural education, ethnic minority youth and religion and cultural diversity, including with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and been a consultant to the Australian Law Reform Commission.

For many years, he was the cross-cultural trainer for the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs; for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, he has been a lecturer in the Public Diplomacy series for locally employed staff in Australian embassies across the world in immigrant and multicultural Australia. He has been elected the President since 2000 of the Australian chapter of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, the world's leading inter-faith organization.

He is heavily involved in cross-cultural research and the supervision of research students as well as making frequent appearances in the radio and media, especially on SBS Multicultural TV and radio.

Mr. Francis Davis, Von Hügel Institute

Mr. Davis recently undertook a survey of the needs of Immigrants in the Diocese of Brentwood, Southwerk and Westminster entitled "The Ground of Justice" as part of his work for the Von Hügel Institute(VHI). The VHI is Britain's senior centre for applied theology, social research and policy analysis at the service of the Churches and the common good. The Institute is based – and is a constituent part of – St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge which was originally founded as a house of study for Priests. Its faith based work is led by Francis Davis who is a lay Dominican, Diocesan trustee and advisor to Caritas Europa.