Call for Papers


The Centre for International Governance and Justice (CIGJ) in the Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet), College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University will host a Workshop on “Torture After 9.11: The Asia Pacific Context” on Wednesday 25 November 2015.

We invite PhD students and academics to submit abstracts of no more than 300 words to be considered for the Workshop.

The Workshop will examine the current state of the norm against torture with particular emphasis on understandings and practices around torture in the Asia-Pacific region. It will comprise three panels, dealing broadly with the following themes:

1. The Mundanity of Torture: the disconnects between official public policy and discourse and actual practice on torture, including how torture is permitted/condoned/tolerated in intelligence-gathering processes, as well as debates around the effectiveness of torture as a reliable means for evidence-gathering.

2. The Aesthetics of Torture: how torture (and cruelty) is depicted – and defended – in popular culture; what are the effects of this on understandings about the norm against torture; how do representations of torture in popular culture influence day to day practices of law enforcement/ intelligence-gathering by security services/criminal prosecutions?

3. Forgetting and Unforgetting Torture: accountability for torture, including alternative sites or locations for accountability when states refuse to engage in accountability; the effects of failing to engage in accountability on future occurrences of torture; ideas around preventing repetitions of what happened after 9.11.

The keynote address will be delivered by Professor Stephen Toope, Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto.

We are seeking funding to help support the costs of domestic airfares and accommodation for people whose abstracts are accepted, though we cannot guarantee this at this stage.

Please send abstracts to Dr Cynthia Banham: cynthia.banham@anu.edu.au by 16 July.

We hope to finalise the Workshop panel themes, panellists and program by the start of August.

Please distribute this to anyone with an interest in this subject.

We look forward to welcoming you to Canberra.

Cynthia Banham and Hilary Charlesworth