Call for Abstracts

The Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law in the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales invites abstracts for its 2012 Postgraduate Workshop in Public Law which will be held on 12-13 July.

The Workshop is an opportunity for higher degree research students in the field of public law to gain experience in presenting their work to their peers and the wider academic public law community in a critically constructive yet supportive environment. While there are several generalist conferences held each year which postgraduate students can attend, the Centre’s biannual Postgraduate Workshop in Public Law is focused on public law issues and as such is an opportunity for students to network with others working in their area.

We invite abstracts from currently enrolled postgraduate research students (Masters, PhD and SJD students) studying full-time or part-time in the field of public law. We welcome abstracts that bring a constitutional or administrative law focus to a range of contemporary issues such as human rights protection, native title and indigenous land rights, national security, federalism, refugees and migration law, electoral law, and the Australian judiciary.

Format

The Workshop will follow a roundtable discussion-based format, with presenters having 15-20 minutes to speak and then ample time being left in each session for questions and discussion by all participants. The event thus provides an opportunity for participants to receive detailed feedback on their work and establish what will hopefully become an ongoing dialogue with others researching in the field.
In preparing abstracts, presenters should bear this format in mind. Ideally they should aim to briefly convey the broader context of their thesis before focussing on a discrete aspect for more detailed consideration. Methodological or substantive issues may be selected as the basis of the presentation.

The collected abstracts from the Workshop will be published online at the Gilbert + Tobin Centre website, enabling further contact between those attending the Workshop and others interested in their research.

Abstracts will be refereed. Upon acceptance they will be organised into thematic streams which will comprise the bulk of the final program for the Workshop.

Special Keynote Speaker

The 2012 Workshop will be opened by a keynote address on conducting research in the public law field. The address will be delivered by Professor Jeffrey Goldsworthy of Monash University.

Professor Goldsworthy is the current President of the Australian Society of Legal Philosophy, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He has an international reputation in legal philosophy and constitutional law, theory and history. He is the author of The Sovereignty of Parliament, History and Philosophy (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1999) and Parliamentary Sovereignty, Contemporary Debates (Cambridge UP, Cambridge, 2012), and the editor of Interpreting Constitutions, A Comparative Study (Oxford UP, 2006) as well as many journal articles on these topics.

Registration

The event, including a dinner for Workshop participants on the evening of 12 July, is FREE to all delegates who are simply asked to cover the costs of their accommodation and travel to Sydney.

Some limited funds are available for travel assistance to those delegates who can make a case based on special need. But we request that support is sought in the first instance from a delegate’s home institution.

To register, please send the following to gtcentre@unsw.edu.au, being sure to put ‘Postgraduate Workshop’ in the subject line:

- Your name, institutional affiliation and contact details; and
- a brief abstract of your paper (max. 400 words).

Registrations with abstracts must be submitted by 25 May. Acceptance will be confirmed by correspondence no later than 1 June.