

**Australia and the World Series**  
**LEAGUE OF NATIONS: HISTORIES, LEGACIES AND IMPACT**  
**10-11 December 2015**  
**University of Melbourne**  
**Gryphon Gallery,**  
**1888 Building, Grattan Street**  
**Carlton**

**Organisers: Professor Joy Damousi (University of Melbourne); Dr. Patricia O'Brien (ANU)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**8.45-9.0: Welcome**

**9.0-10.30: *Mandates and the Pacific***

***Chair: Christina Twomey, Monash University***

**Patricia O'Brien, ARC Future Fellow, ANU**

**'Disarmament in Europe - Military Surge in the Pacific: Cross-Purposes and Contradictions in the 1920s League of Nations'**

This paper explores a set of the tensions in the early years of the League of Nations. Focusing on Australia's mandated territory of New Guinea and New Zealand's mandated territory of Western Samoa, this paper delves into the mass of contradictions resulting from the League's objectives to disarm Europe while at the same time overseeing a military surge in the Pacific. Australia and New Zealand's forceful statements in favour of disarmament happened when their newly founded mandates that were being populated with ANZACS from the top down. The rerouting of returned soldiers - who brought military experience, weapons and altered attitudes to violence into these colonial settings – sets the question of peace in Europe in a different light. Overall the paper examines some of the entangled politics of empire, militarism and the aftermath of the Great War associated with the League of Nations and its Permanent Mandates Commission

**Danton Leary, PhD candidate ANU**

**'Anthropology and the Mandates System: Geneva, New Guinea and the South Sea Islands'**

A fundamental assumption of the League of Nations mandates system was the necessity of applying colonial expertise to the problems of mandatory rule. The Permanent Mandates Commission was the paradigmatic embodiment of this assumption. Made up of experts in colonial administration, it was assumed that the oversight of the Commission would direct mandatory powers towards more rational, effective, and indeed, benevolent policies in their respective mandated territories. Responding to the need for expertise, the Australian government promoted 'practical anthropology' as a science of colonialism uniquely placed to address the problem of so-called 'cultural contact' between indigenous peoples and their colonisers.

This presentation will delve into the interconnections between the mandates system and its underlying principles and the development of Government Anthropology in the Australian mandated territory of New Guinea. Anthropology perfectly fitted the thinking of the Mandates Commission in their consideration of 'native welfare' and the successful mediation of 'cultural contact'. This presentation will also consider this Australian initiative from a transnational perspective by tracing the influence of this idea into the Japanese mandated territory of the South Sea Islands from the late 1930s.

**Nicholas Ferns, Monash PhD candidate**

**'Modernisation or Profit? The Intellectual Underpinnings of Australian Administration of the New Guinea Mandate, 1921-41'**

Following the defeat of the Central Powers in the First World War, the imperial possessions of Germany in the Pacific were divided amongst the victorious Allied powers. Australia was granted control of the former German territory of New Guinea, which was governed as a League of Nations mandate. This framework was crucial in guiding the nature of Australian administration in New Guinea, which differed significantly from the existing system in Papua. This paper will examine the intellectual underpinnings of Australian rule in the League of Nations mandatory territory of New Guinea. In particular, it will evaluate the way that the Australian administration negotiated the competing forces of economic profit and the mission to 'civilise' the indigenous population. Officials drew on a range of inspirations to guide their rule in New Guinea, from official British colonial practice to Christian missionary activity. Ultimately, the paper will argue that the failure of the Australian administration to adequately deal with the complexities of the situation in New Guinea shaped the implementation of an American inspired 'New Deal' in a newly united Papua-New Guinea following the upheaval of the Second World War.

**Morning tea: 10.30-11.0**

**11.0-12.30: *League of Nations Union: Internationalism and Humanitarianism*  
Chair: Marilyn Lake, University of Melbourne**

**Melanie Oppenheimer, School of International Studies, Flinders University**

**“‘A golden moment?’: the League of Nations, the League of Red Cross Societies and contested spaces of internationalism and humanitarianism, 1919-1922’.**

In April 1919, as delegates to the Paris Peace Conference were discussing, amongst other matters, the formation of a League of Nations in Paris, another meeting was being held to the south in Cannes. Convened by the Committee of Red Cross Societies (later known as the League of Red Cross Societies) formed by the Red Cross Societies of the United States, France, Italy, Britain and Japan, and attended by leading medical experts from around the world, the aim was to form a 'League of Health' to alleviate famine and disease that was ravaging post-war Europe. This paper focuses on the efforts of Henry P. Davison, chairman of the war council of the American Red Cross and others to create a truly international humanitarian Red Cross organisation that would work along side the League of Nations in partnership as part

of a new international world order. Recognised in the League of Nations Covenant under Article 25, 'duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross organisations' were to encourage voluntarism and humanitarianism as well as alleviate suffering, co-ordinate relief work and advocate for the improvement of health and prevention of disease through the international reach of the Red Cross. Although this 'golden moment' was short lived not least because of the political frisson between the Swiss run International Committee of the Red Cross and the newly formed League of Red Cross Societies, this paper examines this little known Cannes Conference, its outcomes and suggests that the emergence of the League of Red Cross Societies helped to reposition the broader Red Cross Movement within the increasingly contested spaces of humanitarianism and internationalism in the years post 1919.

**Joy Damousi ARC Laureate Fellow, University of Melbourne**

**'Australian League of Nations Union and War Refugees: Internationalism and humanitarianism: 1930-1939'**

'Never since the days of the Great War', stated the NSW branch of the Australian League of Nations Union in its Bulletin in 1932, 'have the international waters been so troubled'. The branch noted that just 'when it seemed that the League was handling current international problems with a considerable measure of success' new issues were emerging to create a 'multitude of new problems'. One of these problems which was to escalate during the 1930s was the growing number of refugees first from the Spanish Civil War of 1936; then the Sino-Japanese war of 1937; and finally one the eve of outbreak of the Second World War, a refugee crisis emerged which was unprecedented to that time. The Australian League of Nations Union branches responded to the growing international refugee crisis during the 1930s with a range of measures and actions. This paper explores this response to the international refugee issue as a way of interrogating Australian internationalism and the role of the League of Nations Union in fostering an international and humanitarian outlook within Australia towards the plight of war refugees.

**Renata Howe, Deakin University**

**'The Australian Student Christian Movement and the ideal of World Government'**

The ASCM, affiliated with the Geneva based World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), was one of the few national and international student groups in Australian universities during the interwar period. This paper will explore the movement's support for the League of Nations as an ideal world government – a force for peace, equity and stability in tune with the movement's liberal Christian theology. ASCM members were foremost in forming the League of Nations Union (LNU) in Australia and were delegates at assemblies and international meetings associated with the League. The failure of the League to build a peaceful post war world and overcome its Euro-centric focus became a divisive issue at WSCF and ASCM conferences. As aspirations for a New World Order faded, tensions and divisions mounted over the growth of fascism and the influence of communism in the peace movement. On the eve of World War 2, LNU/ASCM delegates to the 1938 Assembly (Kenneth Bailey, George Paton and Freda Bage) witnessed the last days of the League and its

aspirations. Nevertheless, the ASCM remained committed to the ideal of world government as essential for a just and peaceful world and strongly supported Australia's role in the establishment of the United Nations.

### **12.30-1.30: Lunch**

**1.30-2.30 pm: *Peace and Empire***

**Chair: Kate Laing, University of Melbourne**

**Aden David Knaap, University of Sydney**

### **'Between League and Empire: Internationalism, Imperialism and League of Nations Unions in Interwar Australia'**

In the wake of the First World War, men and women across the globe looked to the League of Nations as the symbol of a new world order. The majority of these League activists hailed from the northern hemisphere: Britain, France and the United States, for example. But individuals also formed popular League associations—League of Nations Unions—in all six Australian states. Historians have traditionally downplayed the importance of League of Nations Unions in Australia. They have tarred Australian champions of the League with the brush of radicalism; painted them as idealists at odds with the imperial loyalism of the general populace. Analysing the intellectual output of key League of Nations Union members, this paper will offer an alternative interpretation of the Australian League movement. This paper will suggest that Australian internationalists accommodated Empire in their conceptions of the League. Far from being radical ideologues, League supporters were generally ardent imperialists and members of Australia's ruling elite: prime ministers, prominent academics, high-profile businessman and religious leaders. An examination of the interplay between internationalism and imperialism in the ideas of Union members forces us to reconsider the impact and legacy of the League in Australia, exposing a main line of popular Australian internationalism in the early twentieth century.

**Les Hetherington, ANU Phd Candidate**

### **'Tension among friends: grassroots internationalism in Sydney in 1923'**

The League of Nations, established to achieve international peace and security, with open, just and honourable relations between nations achieved through international law and justice, together with its supporters, should have been a natural ally of the international peace movement, which dated its work back to the post-Napoleonic era. But an event in Sydney in September 1923 at which visiting American geographer and geologist, Professor William Herbert Hobbs, criticised the League, and a subsequent exchange of correspondence in the *Sydney Morning Herald* the following December, illustrated not only the antipathy of American public opinion towards the League, but also scepticism about the League within the peace movement.

The correspondence, initiated by Hobbs, with responses from A.H. Charteris, President of the NSW League of Nations Union, and William Cooper and Marian Harwood, Presidents and Assistant President of the NSW Branch of the London Peace Society, demonstrated something of the tensions which existed over the League and its capacity to maintain a peaceful world. The incident illustrates why the peace

movement continued its separate existence, programs and activities after the establishment of the League, despite sharing its overall objective.

**2.30-3.30 pm: *John Latham and his circle***  
**Chair: David Lowe, Deakin University**

**David Lee, DFAT**

**‘Sir John Latham and the League of Nations’**

This paper will examine the attitudes of Australian liberal, Sir John Latham, towards the League of Nations. Having served during World War I as the head of Naval Intelligence, Latham went to London as an adviser to the Minister for the Navy, Sir Joseph Cook, in 1918. In 1919, he was part of the Australian delegation to the Versailles Peace Conference which drafted the League of Nations Covenant. Latham served on a committee that determined the Czechoslovakian borders and helped formulate the definition of ‘C class’ mandates. Becoming an active member of the League of Nations Union in the 1920s, Latham headed the Australian delegation to the League in 1926 after he had become Commonwealth Attorney-General. In 1932 he became Attorney-General again as well as the Minister for External Affairs. In the period from 1932 to 1934 Latham represented Australia at the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments in Geneva. Disappointed by the outcome of the conference, he was appointed Chief Justice of the High Court in 1934. The paper will examine the evolving thoughts and attitudes of Latham towards the League from 1919 until its dissolution during World War II.

**Michael Kilmister, PhD Candidate, School of Humanities and Social Science, University of Newcastle.**

**‘Out of touch with reality’: Sir John Latham, the Abyssinian Crisis and the League of Nations’ eclipse’**

A local founder and president of the League of Nations Union, Sir John Latham (1877-1964) was one of Geneva’s most energetic supporters in early-1920’s Australia. By 1926, however, he increasingly perceived tensions between the interests of the British Empire and Australia’s membership to the League. Latham opposed the Balfour Declaration of 1926 and, later, the Statute of Westminster. The prospect of Australia applying greater independence in diplomatic and political affairs stirred him to campaign for Canberra to pursue its diplomacy and security aims through the traditional channels of Empire. The Abyssinian Crisis of 1935-36 and the consternation it caused in Cabinet gave Latham, then one of the leading voices in foreign affairs, an opportunity to undermine the League and to promote the Empire in its place. He argued in publications and speeches that Geneva’s decision to economically sanction Italy in response to its invasion of Abyssinia was ‘an act of war’ and was ‘out of touch with reality’. Using archival and newspaper sources, this paper argues that Latham commanded decisive influence on Australia’s slow drift away from the League of Nations that marked Canberra’s diplomacy in the late-1930s.

### **3.30-4.0: Afternoon tea**

#### **4.0-5.30 pm: *Internationalists***

**Chair: Melissa Conley Tyler, Australian Institute of International Affairs**

#### **James Cotton, UNSW, ADFA, Canberra**

##### **'An unlikely Australian internationalist: C H Ellis and the League of Nations'**

Charles Howard ('Dick') Ellis, born in Sydney in 1895 and a Great War veteran, was working as a journalist in Vienna and Geneva when he wrote one of the most comprehensive books of the time on the League: *The Origin, Structure and Working of the League of Nations* (1928). Dedicated to the progressive literary figures of the age and showing a particular debt to the writings of his friend Konni Zilliacus, Ellis argued that the internationalism of the age marked a necessary rejection of the anarchic conditions that brought forth the Great War. The League and its associated institutions constituted 'the first step toward a world society' that would facilitate the suppression and ultimate removal of the causes of conflict. A remarkable work in itself, this progressive volume was written by a member of British intelligence who had already made a reputation in this sphere and was to go on to very senior positions in the 1940s. The question arises as to whether the ideas expressed were a product of Ellis's genuine beliefs, or whether they were a mask for his substantive professional role. The circumstances around the writing of this book are reviewed in an attempt to answer this question, rendered the more intriguing by later charges that he had been a double agent for the Soviet Union.

#### **Panayiotis Diamadis, UTS**

##### **'George Devine Treloar: Australia's first Commissioner for Refugees'**

One of the least recognised successes of the League of Nations was the re-settlement of hundreds of thousands of displaced refugees across Europe in the aftermath of World War One and the emergence of new nation-states. Ballarat-born George Devine Treloar served in the war with the British Coldstream Guards, and then with the Cossacks in the Russian Civil War. His work with 'White Russian' refugees around Constantinople caught the eye of the League's High Commissioner for Refugees, Fridtjof Nansen, who subsequently appointed the newly-wed Australian representative of the League of Nations High Commissariat for Refugees in northern Greece. Over the next four years, Treloar dedicated his life to saving the lives of destitute survivors of the Armenian, Assyrian and Hellenic Genocides who had made their way into north-east Hellas. Treloar led his multi-national team in providing food and other emergency relief aid, clearing land, founding twelve new villages and building cottage industries to boost employment. His effective efforts are credited with saving an estimated 108,000 men, women and children. One of those villages – Thrylorio (outside Komotene) – has borne his name since his formation in 1923.

**Nicholas Brown, ANU**

**‘Far more than anyone could possibly dream of’: Placing the League of Nations in Australian economic analysis of the nation, the region and the world’**

In 1934 the Australian economist, J.G. Crawford, used these words as the title for a radio broadcast in reply to the question “What has the League of Nations done?” This paper will contribute to the broader question of estimating the influence of the League of Nations by assessing its contribution to the ways in which many Australian economists framed their analysis of national and international affairs. The interdependence the League’s outlook fostered between policy approaches in both areas will be assessed, with a particular focus on attitudes to development priorities in the Asia-Pacific region, and on the place of the League in economists’ professional development and public authority.

**5.30pm: *Summary and Discussion of Day 1:***  
***Led by Nicholas Brown***

**Drinks 6.0**

**Dinner: 6.30pm**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**9.30am-10.30am: *Imperialism, Territories, Sovereignty***  
**Chair: Volker Prott, University of Melbourne**

**Thomas Fischer, University of Eichstätt, Germany**

**Struggle for “Sovereignty” – Latin America and the League of Nations**

Latin American official representatives, observers and journalists took part at the Paris Peace negotiations of 1919. They perceived this process as a historical moment to negotiate the place of their countries and Latin America as a whole in international politics. While there was no perfect consensus about how to approach postwar world order, they all claimed for respect of national sovereignty as a fundamental category of International Law (*Derecho Internacional*). That explains why they were highly interested in the foundation of the League of Nations. Indeed 14 delegations from the 42 founding-members presented at the first Geneva Assembly in 1920 came from Latin America. There and on later occasions Latin Americans called on “great powers” to respect “national sovereignty” from “small” and “weak” countries. From the beginning, most Latin American representatives were anxious to use the newly founded institutional and normative framework of the League of Nations as a tool and a platform to negotiate the identity of their nations and the place of Latin America in the world. Following up the discussion started in my monograph “The Sovereignty of the Weak. Latin America and the League of Nations, 1920-1936” (2012), the aim of this paper is to focus sovereignty from a Latin American perspective. For Latin Americans it was an important category not only in international politics, but also in collective identity negotiation beyond 1918. My paper gives fresh insights into cultural patterns, discourses and practices of Latin American nation-building and construction of regional concepts.

**Andrew Webster, Murdoch University**

**‘The League of Nations and international disarmament, 1925-1932’**

In September 1925, the Assembly of the League of Nations called for the summoning of a global Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments in order at last to put into practice the great hopes for world disarmament that had emerged from the cataclysm of the Great War. When the conference’s Preparatory Commission set to work early in 1926, it was amidst widespread expectations that it would complete its task within a matter of months and that the great world disarmament conference to follow would itself meet in 1927 to ratify a final disarmament treaty. But a snail’s pace of progress defeated all such hopes: the commission only produced its draft treaty in December 1930 and the conference itself did not open until February 1932. The combined membership of the many organizations that made presentations at the conference’s opening public session was some 200 million people, approximately 10% of the world population at the time. Despite the central importance accorded to disarmament as a test of the worth of the new League of Nations, and indeed for many a shorthand expression for a guarantee of lasting peace, there has never been a

comprehensive historical treatment of the work of the League on disarmament. This paper draws upon extensive research in the archives of the League of Nations, Britain, France, the United States, Australia and Canada and is part of a larger project on the history of the international disarmament process between 1899 and 1945. It will examine why the path towards agreement over international disarmament went so far awry during the later 1920s, despite the favourable diplomatic atmosphere of the so-called 'Locarno era'. In particular, it focuses upon the work of the Preparatory Commission for the world disarmament conference, a site of competing nationalist, internationalist and transnationalist agendas.

**10.30-11am: Morning tea**

**11.0-12.0: *Near East: Armenia***

***Chair: Joy Damousi (University of Melbourne)***

**Andrekos Varnava, Flinders University.**

**'The Failure to Create a State for Ottoman Armenians: Imperialism, Mandates, and the League of Nations'**

Most historians associate the failures of the League of Nations with the 1930s and its successes a significant failure of the League. The British and French governments had not only promised to punish the perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide, which they failed to do, but they also promised to create a secure homeland for Ottoman Armenians. In exchange the Armenians would be asked to fight alongside the allies, in the French *Legion d'Orient*. Clearly any Allied humanitarianism and desire for an Armenian homeland followed the imperialism. Yet after the war Turkish nationalism challenged the French occupation of Cilicia and its surrounding areas, French imperialism proved too weak and the promises to the Armenians were broken. Since the British believed that they had overstretched their imperial responsibilities after the war and the Armenian populated areas were not prime imperial territory, they convinced the US President Woodrow Wilson that the US should accept a mandate over Armenia. Wilson was in favour, but the Senate rejected the idea based on the report by General Harbord, which claimed that, much the same way as a state would reject a possible imperial venture, that the task would be too great on humanitarian, economic, and political grounds.

**Vicken Babkenian, Australian Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies**

**'Australian women and the League of Nations rescue movement of Armenian women and children'**

Many women became ardent believers in the League of Nations because the Covenant recognised equality between the sexes and promised to work to secure world peace. Like many of their overseas counterparts, Australian women were designated as 'substitute' or 'alternate' delegates to the League and participated in a variety of international organisations and congresses. Among the most pressing concerns for women at the League was the fate of the estimated tens of thousands of Armenian women and children who had been abducted and forcibly Islamized during the Armenian genocide. In response to agitation by the Women's International League for

Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the International Council of Women (ICW), the League formed a committee in 1920 to organise the reclamation of abducted women and children. The violation of the rights of thousands of Armenian women, especially to 'voluntary motherhood', resonated with Australian women who had fought for equality and protection from predatory, violent and exploitative men for decades. My paper will explore the role of Australian women in supporting the League's efforts to rescue and provide relief for survivors of the Armenian genocide.

**12.0-1.0: *Far East***

***Chair: Patricia O'Brien (ANU)***

**Tomoko Akami, School of Culture, History and Language, Research School of Asia and the Pacific, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific**

**'Imperial polities in an 'International space': the meaning and legacy of the League of Nations' Far Eastern Rural Hygiene Conference, Bandeong, 1937'**

The League of Nations has been getting a revived attention as a 'harbinger' of global governing norms as Susan Pedersen summarized this trend most eloquently in 2008. While scholars examine diverse issues, such as refugee convention, women and child trafficking, drug control, economic and financial regulations, and labour conditions, the works of the League of Nations Health Organization (LNHO) have been regarded as one of the most successful operations of the League in this regard. Except for a few excellent exceptions, such as Sunil Amrith and Lenore Manderson, however, scholarly works on the LNHO have neglected Asia in this new assessment, while a major attention has been paid to its role in the Sino-Japanese conflicts. A main reason for this neglect of Asia lies in the fact that there were only a few national sovereignties in the region, which could be a member state for the League. In my recent article, however, using the notion of inter-imperialism/inter-colonialism, I stressed the significance of diverse forms of imperial polities and more importantly experts network located in these polities in the region in actively reshaping what we now call 'global norms' in the mid 1920s, and I argued that the LNHO was an important facilitator for this regional initiative.

In this paper, I will further this notion of inter-colonialism, and examine critically the notion of what James Gillespi called 'international space' through the case study of the LNHO's Far Eastern Rural Hygiene Conference in Bandeong in 1937, which was held shortly after the outbreak of the second Sino-Japanese War. It argues that this conference was the first international conference of a major scale, organized by the inter-governmental global organization, which fully and formally acknowledged the diverse imperial polities as the legitimate participating units. I suggest that this had important implications in defining the nature of 'international health' projects in the region and beyond, and had a lasting legacy for the post-colonial era.

**Julia Martinez, University of Wollongong**

**‘Orientalism in the League of Nations’ investigation into "trafficking" of women and children "in the East".**

In 1921, not long after the formation of the League of Nations, that body introduced the *International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children*. Despite having replaced the previous racially ambiguous phrase "White Slave Trade" with the term 'traffic', this new convention remained primarily concerned with European women. Smaller investigations as to the question of so-called "traffic in the East" began soon after, but it was only in 1928 that a dedicated study was proposed that would cover the broad region of Asia. International Bureau for Suppression of Traffic in Persons Secretary, F. Sempkins, warned the League of the 'delicacy and difficulty of such an enquiry', hinting at the complex relationship between the European members of the League and the leaders of the Asian nations under consideration. China and Japan were to figure prominently in the study, as were the various European colonies of Southeast Asia. In this paper I aim to build on the recent work by Stephanie Limoncelli, tracing the planning, research and publication of the 1932 League of Nations report on "traffic in the East". I consider the degree to which the orientalist leanings of those undertaking the project dominated their understanding.

***Lunch: 1.0-2.0***

**2.0-3.30pm: *Educational Work and the League***

***Chair: Tamson Pietsch, University of Sydney***

**Julie McLeod, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, The University of Melbourne**

**‘Instructing young people in the aims of the League of Nations: Curriculum and education for international citizenship’**

A key plank of the League of Nations’ mission was to promote international understanding through the education of children and young people. The ‘Youth question’ and advice on how to instruct young people in the aims of the League were the focus of numerous expert committees, publications and review activities, reflecting the League’s future-orientation and ambitious view of the person-forming role of education. Advice was distributed to member nations on reviewing school materials to promote the spirit of internationalism and to encourage education departments to host activities such as League of Nations days and international exchange programs for teachers and students. This was accompanied by extensive internal review of what a curriculum for international citizenship should involve. Similar ideas were debated by the Geneva-based International Bureau of Education, (established 1925); and they echoed throughout the child-centred internationalism of interwar progressive movements, such as the New Education Fellowship (e.g. Fuchs 2007; Hofstetter and Schneuwly 2013). Concerns with countering the risk of localism and parochialism, and advancing new modes of knowledge and reasoning were accompanied by deliberations on pedagogical forms, the dispositions and rationalities of the ideal student, and emerging practices of citizenship. Who was the ideal new citizen? And who did not possess the capacity for educability in the new regimes of

openness, reason and world-mindedness? This paper examines the League's extensive apparatus and publications on instructing children in the aims of the League and the revision of school curricula (e.g. *The Educational Survey*) in light of related debates, responses and textbooks in Australian education (e.g. Hoy 1937). These lofty aims are juxtaposed with contemporary debates about the education of native children and perceived hierarchies of educability and capacity for world-mindedness and international citizenship.

**Joyce Goodman**

**Centre for the History of Women's Education, University of Winchester, UK**

**“Shaping the mentality of races and especially of young people”<sup>1</sup>: The League of Nations and Educational Cinematography**

The paper explores educational film as an element of intellectual cooperation at the League of Nations (Maltby, 1999). Educational cinematograph was linked to League interest in child development and welfare, health, morality, social conditions, labour, and the shaping of public opinion (Druick, 2007), and institutionalised in the International Institute for Educational Cinematograph (IIC), situated in Rome (Taillibert, 1999). The paper examines ideas of educability and ideas about 'native races' discussed at the 1934 Congress of Educational Cinematograph, organised by the IIC at Rome. Ideas of educability and about 'native races' in pedagogies of visual education are explored through Laura Dreyfus Barney's engagement with the Rome Congress, and through papers in the IIC journal, *The International Review of Educational Cinematography*. They are considered in relation to the fabrication of the cosmopolitan child within universal humanist ideals. The paper also discusses the circulation of ideas in the Pacific about educational cinematograph and of information from the Rome Congress, at the 1934 Pan Pacific Woman's Conference, where anxieties around whiteness, the impact of film on 'native peoples' in mandated territories, and Americanization are apparent.

**Fiona Paisley, Griffith University**

**‘Education in the Mandates: International Debate in the League Era on Educating ‘Natives’**

Little work has been done in relation to the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations and its interest in educational policy in the Mandated or Trust Territories. As historian of the League, Susan Pedersen notes, this lack of attention probably reflects the lack of impact of the educational work undertaken through the PMC. And yet, as I am to show, the ideas discussed in the Commission, particularly as led by its two women members, provide a window onto wider debate on the topic including through the League of Nations Union, the British Commonwealth League, and, in the Pacific region, the Institute of Pacific Relations and the Pan-Pacific Women's Association. This paper takes up the question of the League's impact to investigate the circulation of ideas about the education of 'natives' in the colonies and mandates during the interwar years both within the PMC and across a range of international networks and locales directly influenced by its work.

**Afternoon Tea: 3.30-4**

**4.0: Summary and Discussion of Day 2:**

**Led by Patricia O'Brien and Joy Damousi**