Church and State from Old to New Worlds

A Workshop sponsored by the Religious History Society in association with the Research Group on Religion and Intellectual Traditions and the Institute for the Advanced Study of Humanity at the University of Newcastle, NSW

Thursday 11 - Saturday 13 December 2008
University of Newcastle, NSW

The Religious History Society in association with the Research Group for Religion and Intellectual Traditions (which is part of the Institute for the Advanced Study of Humanity at the University of Newcastle, NSW) will be sponsoring a workshop on Church and State from Old to New Worlds. The workshop convenors are Hilary Carey (Hilary.Carey@newcastle.edu.au) and John Gascoigne (j.gascoigne@unsw.edu.au).

This workshop brings together national and international scholars to consider one of the central issues in western historiography - the relationship between church and state. This classic theme has never really gone away but is emerging to engage scholars in new ways in the wake of the colonial and postcolonial critique of the long history of the west and its imperial expansion from early modern times to the present. Within the West changing conceptions of the state, of marriage and family life, and the aftermath of 9/11 with an increase in Western-Islamic tension and the renewal of 'evangelical atheism' have all recently served to bring the issue into renewed focus.

The workshop will open on the evening of Thurs. 11 December with a keynote address from Frank Lambert (Purdue) on Church and State in the US. This will be followed by a reception sponsored by the Network for Early European Research [NEER].

Friday 12 Dec will be devoted to papers on the European background and will include a keynote address by Jay Brown (Edinburgh) on modern Scotland and England together with the following speakers: Claire Walker (Adelaide): Early Modern England, David Cahill (UNSW): Early Modern Spain and Spanish America, David Garrioch (Monash): Old Regime France, Jennifer Ridden (Latrobe): Modern Ireland and Judith Keene (Sydney): Modern Spain. In the evening there will be a workshop dinner.

Sat. 13 Dec will focus on Church-State relations in colonial and post-colonial perspectives with papers by Rowan Strong (Murdoch) on Western Australia, Hilary Carey (Newcastle) on Colonial Missions, John Stenhouse (Otago, NZ) on New Zealand, Bruce Kaye (UNSW) on the Anglican Church in Australia, John Murphy (Melbourne) on the Australian churches and welfare and Troy Duncan (Newcastle) on Bishop Batty of Newcastle.

Could those interesting in attending contact Troy Duncan (Troy.Duncan@newcastle.edu.au). Registration (which will cover the Thurs pm reception and lunches and teas on the Fri. and Sat.) will be $100 with an additional $50 for those wishing to attend the dinner on the Friday evening.