

4:00 pm Thursday 7 September 2006

## Beyond the West: Europe and the Rise of Asia

### Gerard Delanty

Until now Europe has been mostly defined in terms of its historical relation with the United States. With the expansion of the EU east and southwards, on the one side and on the other the changing identity of the US as a global military power, the relevance of the notion of the West is in question. The relation to Asia to Europe will become more important in the present century. The West/East dichotomy has crystallized into a number of different encounters, leading to new Euro-Asian relations sustained by transnational migration, trade, changing foreign policy, multiculturalism and tourism. The example of Turkey is particularly illustrative of the changing geopolitical contours of Europe. The opportunity exists for Europe to devise new relations Asia at a time when new centres of economic and political power are emerging in Asia. The seminar will explore the changing nature of the relation of Europe to Asia and will consider the relevance of a cosmopolitan perspective for the present day as opposed to a notion of the clash of civilizations. The idea of a cosmopolitan Europe as opposed to other conceptions of Europe will be discussed. The argument is that the external dimension is coming increasingly to the fore today and the future of Europeanization will depend to a large degree on successful external cosmopolitanism.

**Gerard Delanty** is Professor of Sociology, University of Liverpool, UK, where he is the head of the School of Sociology and Social Policy. Born 1960, Cork, Ireland he is a graduate of University College Cork, Ireland where he studied sociology and philosophy. He was a Doctoral D.A.A.D scholar at Frankfurt University in 1985-86. After the award of his PhD in 1987, he taught at the University of Hannover, Germany and the Orientale University Institute, Naples, Italy. He has been at the University of Liverpool since 1996. Professor Delanty works mainly in the field of social and political theory, with a particular interest in European cultural and political heritage. He also has a major interest in the comparative cultural and historical sociology of modernity. Professor Delanty is currently working on cosmopolitanism, especially in relation to new interpretations of modernity, and in civilizational encounters between Europe and Asia. He has held research grants from the European Commission on xenophobia, and on democracy in European in central and eastern Europe.

Professor Delanty has authored or co-authored the following 11 books: *Inventing Europe: Idea, Identity, Reality* (Macmillan, 1995), *Social Science: Beyond Realism and Constructivism* (Open University Press/University of Minnesota Press, 1997. Enlarged 2nd edition 2005), (with P. O' Mahony) *Rethinking Irish History: Nationalism, Identity and Ideology* (Macmillan 1998), *Social Theory in a Changing World: Conceptions of Modernity* (Polity Press, 1999), *Modernity and Postmodernity: Knowledge, Power, the Self.* (Sage, 2000), *Citizenship in the Global Age: Culture, Society and Politics.* (Open University Press, 2000), *Challenging Knowledge: The University in the Knowledge Society* (Open University Press, 2001), (with P. O'Mahony) *Nationalism and Social Theory* (Sage, 2002), *Community* (Routledge, 2003), (with C. Rumford) *Rethinking Europe: Social Theory and the Implications of Europeanization* (Routledge, 2005). He has also published over 90 papers in journals or edited volumes, and edited or co-edited 7 other books.)

**There is no entry charge and everyone is welcome.  
Drinks and nibbles will be provided.**

**The Blue Room, Building B, Room B202 , Burwood Campus, Deakin University**