Research Seminar Series

J.S. MILL AND THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS: WHOSE LAW? WHOSE LIBERTY? WHOSE GREATER GOOD?

Abstract:

In 1871, John Stuart Mill appeared before the Royal Commission on the Administration of the Contagious Diseases Acts. He testified that these Acts violated the principle of the ‘security of personal liberty’, not just for prostitutes but potentially for all women. He did not concede that the rationale for these Acts, namely the greater good of protecting public health, should trump personal liberty as a matter of course. Mill’s testimony provides a unique perspective from which to consider the relationship between law, liberty, and the greater good. A close examination of Mill’s testimony in the context of his broader political philosophy would suggest that this relationship is rarely a straightforward trade-off between the public good and personal liberty. Rather it reveals the way in which the law masks its particularity while claiming to mediate between two assumed universals, namely liberty and the greater good.

Date: 2 August 2016, Tuesday
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
Venue: Room B-408, PSB Academy, Delta Campus
Speaker: Associate Professor Jim Jose
Deputy Head of Faculty
Assistant Dean of Research
Newcastle Business School, Faculty of Business and Law

Register: Email Ms. Nway Yu Hlaing at nway.yuhlaing@newcastle.edu.au
(Register by 1 Aug 2016, Monday)

Bio-sketch:

Jim Jose is an Associate Professor in Politics & International Relations in the Newcastle Business School at the University of Newcastle in New South Wales, Australia. He is currently Assistant Dean of Research in the Faculty of Business and Law. He is the author of Biopolitics of the Subject: An Introduction to the Ideas of Michel Foucault (1998), co-editor of a Not So Strange Bedfellows: The Nexus of Politics and Religion in the 21st Century (2013), and a contributor to Anarchists and Anarchist Thought: An Annotated Bibliography, ed Paul Nurse-Bray (1992). He has published numerous articles on political theory, feminist theory, and Australian politics and public policy in journals such as; Australian Journal of Political Science; Australian Journal of Politics & History; Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies; Gender, Technology & Development; Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy; International Journal of Social Welfare; Journal of Australian Studies; Journal of Contemporary Asia; Journal of Southern African Studies; Journal of Women, Politics and Policy; Law and History Review; Postcolonial Studies; Science-Fiction Studies; Social Identities; Religion, State and Society; Women’s History Review.

Associate Professor Jose’s current research interests include:
- Governance as theory and practice,
- Feminist political theory and the history of political thought
- Postcolonial and the politics of memory

In recent years he has expanded his interest in the concept of governance to include analysing ways in which it contributes to contemporary understandings of the organization of political power. This has prompted an interest in thinking about how the state in the 21st century has come to be restructured and understood, explored in a number of recent papers using the notion of the ‘governance state’. Associate Professor Jose is also involved in the supervision of the ten PhD students, six as principal supervisor and four as co-supervisor. He is also supervising to Politics Honours students.

For more information visit: newcastle.edu.au/singapore