

## **Australia and France in a Regional and Global Context: Past Engagements and Future Research Directions**

35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium of the Institute for the Study of French Australian Relations (ISFAR)

8-9 April 2021, RMIT University

### **Call for Papers**

As two neighbouring middle-powers in the Pacific, France and Australia share a fruitful and complex relationship, rooted in a long history of engagement at local, regional and global levels. The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ISFAR provides an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of the study of that relationship over the last few decades. In a rapidly changing world, it is also an opportunity to discuss its future and, notably, the shift of focus to the study of French-Australian relations in the Indo-Pacific region.

In recent years, the idea of the Indo-Pacific has gained wide currency. Diplomats, politicians and journalists refer to it as a self-evident geopolitical space, but it is also a powerful concept that is changing and influencing the ways in which states and non-state actors relate to one another. Papers that directly engage with the idea of the Indo-Pacific are particularly encouraged but we welcome abstracts on any aspects of Franco-Australian history and engagement, in any geographical area, time period and field of inquiry.

The session topics might include:

Commemorative agendas.

Language and/or cross- and intercultural communication.

The 'imperial turn' in the study of French-Australian relations.

France and Australia in the Indo-Pacific: past engagements and present challenges.

Cultural exchange today: institutional (exhibitions, festivals, museums) and popular.

Researching the impact of study tours and exchanges.

Mis/Representations of French and Australian life in art and literature.

Diplomatic, political and scientific rapprochements in the new world order.

### **Keynote speaker**

Professor Rory Medcalf, Head of the National Security College at the Australian National University, has agreed to be guest speaker. He is the founding convenor of the Australia-France Strategic Dialogue and the author of several recent publications on the Indo-Pacific region, including *The Contest for the Indo-Pacific: Why China Won't Map the Future* (2020).

### **Funding**

We intend to offer a bursary, in honour of the late George T. Parsons, to support one or two PhD students wishing to attend.

### **Publication**

Subject to the usual review, we intend to publish articles from the conference, both in the *French-Australian Review* and in an edited volume.

### **Abstracts**

Send abstracts of 150-200 words and a brief bio (150-200 words) to [elizabeth.rechniewski@sydney.edu.au](mailto:elizabeth.rechniewski@sydney.edu.au) and [alexis.bergantz@rmit.edu.au](mailto:alexis.bergantz@rmit.edu.au) by 30 September 2020. Acceptance by 30 October 2020.

<https://www.isfar.org.au/>

