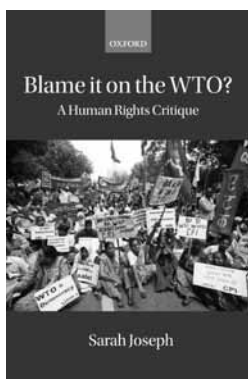


Three new books released by Castan Centre staff

The Centre's academic staff have been busy in recent months preparing three new books for launch. The Centre's Director, Professor Sarah Joseph and Centre Associate Dr Stephen Gray have produced their own monographs, while Deputy Director Dr Paula Gerber has co-edited a book with Centre Faculty Member Dr Adiva Sifris. The books focus on the diverse topics of global trade, Indigenous history and same-sex relationships.

Professor Sarah Joseph's monograph *Blame it on the WTO? A Human Rights Critique* will be launched on 2 August in the Melbourne CBD. Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision Australia, will be the guest speaker at the launch. The book provides a human rights critique of the World Trade Organisation, incorporating legal arguments as well as some economic and political science perspectives.

After introducing the respective WTO and human rights regimes, and discussing their legal and normative relationship to each other, the book embarks upon a detailed analysis of the main human rights concerns with the WTO.



For the first time, these issues are brought together in a single monograph. The issues explored include the impact of WTO rules on States' abilities to impose trade related human rights measures, labour rights, poverty and development, the right to food and the right to health. The book also explores the alleged democratic deficit within the WTO.

Given that some of the most important WTO issues concern its impact on poor people in developing States, Professor Joseph also covers the issue of whether rich States have an obligation to the people of poorer States to construct a fairer trading system that better facilitates the alleviation of poverty and development.

Dr Stephen Gray has just released his new book *The Protectors: A journey through whitefella past*. The book explores one of the unspoken issues of Australia's history: it looks at the motivations for engaging in and the role played by the administrators and patrol officers who carried out the Indigenous 'protection' policies.

When asked about his motivation for writing the book, Dr Gray told *Rapporteur* "I have been interested for some time, firstly, in the dramatic divergence white Australians have in their views about their Aboriginal past. The two Apology speeches of February 2008 (Kevin Rudd PM and Brendan Nelson) seemed to me to encapsulate this divergence. On the one hand, Rudd alluded to racism, eugenics, and the profound wrongness of past policies, while Nelson spoke of benign intentions, goodness, and even, perhaps, hinted that given the same conditions we would do the same thing again. Both cannot be true – or can they? And what did white Australia really mean when it apologised for its past?"

"In looking at this", he continued, "I wanted to hear more personally from people associated with these past policies, especially administrators and patrol officers. The voices of these people did not appear in the Stolen Generations report, and since then some of them have been portrayed as hurt and angry at the way history seems to be remembering them. I wanted to explore what seems to me partly a generational issue – how we, the younger generations who've grown up since these policies, should go about judging our past."

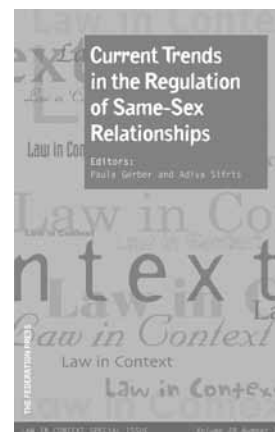
"Mixed with this is a more personal concern with the stories white Australians tell about their Aboriginal past. Especially I am interested in family stories – things passed down in 'pioneer' families, terse, perhaps uniquely Australian anecdotes that raise more questions than they answer, to a modern ear. Where are the descendants of those who set up the early homesteads, and, most likely, 'dispersed' the blacks? What stories do they tell? In such stories as I have heard the silences are more eloquent than the words – but then, you have to be careful not to impute your own prejudices, and listen with an open ear."

The Protectors is available now through Allen & Unwin publishers.



Dr Paula Gerber and **Dr Adiva Sifris'** edited publication, *Current Trends in the Regulation of Same-sex Relationship*, was launched by The Honourable Catherine Branson QC, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission on 5 May.

Dr Gerber noted that "Hardly a week goes by without the issue of same-sex marriage featuring somewhere in the media. But unfortunately, many of the opinions expressed in such



reports are ill-informed. We decided there was a need for an up-to-date scholarly analysis of all the issues surrounding same-sex relationships, including marriage, parenting and potential law reform, so as to raise the quality of the debate. We hope that this book stimulates better informed opinions and discussions that culminate in positive law reform."

The book will also be used as an educative tool for politicians. The book's publisher, Federation Press, has kindly agreed to increase the print run so the editors can send complimentary copies to every federal politician, to help inform their views on this hot topic.