

The Centre for International and Public Law, ANU College of Law and Centre for International Governance and Justice, RegNet, The Australian National University *present*

Reconciliation, Genocide and Criminal Trials

Professor Larry May Washington University

Tuesday 11 December 2007, 1.00pm

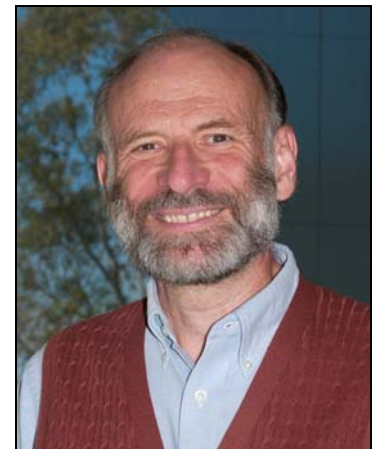
(Sandwiches served from 12.45pm)

Phillipa Weeks Staff Library

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This is a paper about reconciliation in societies that have recently experienced genocide or other human rights atrocities. Currently there are international trials ongoing to prosecute those most responsible for these atrocities. Critics argue that criminal trials often make matters worse for achieving reconciliation in these societies. Professor May will try to refute the arguments of these critics of international criminal trials.

Most of Professor May's time will be spent rethinking reconciliation, an under analysed concept in political and legal philosophy. In this respect Professor May argues that it is not the victims or the perpetrators that are key, but the bystanders. Robust reconciliation occurs only with the diminishment of the complicity that allows for large-scale atrocities like genocide. Trials, properly conducted, can aid rather than retard this effort.

The paper is drawn from the fourth volume of Professor May's continuing project on the normative foundations of international criminal law.

Larry May is Professor of Philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis and Research Professor of Social Justice at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, here in Canberra. He has a BS in international affairs, MA and Ph.D. degrees in philosophy, and a JD in law. He has published over 20 books, including three books on the normative foundations of international criminal law. The first volume, *Crimes Against Humanity: A Normative Account*, received the best book award from the North American Society for Social Philosophy, and honourable mention from the American Society of International Law. The second volume, *War Crimes and Just War*, received best book award on the philosophy of war and peace from the American Philosophical Association. The third volume, *Aggression and Crimes Against Peace* (, is in press. Professor May is in the midst of a new book, tentatively titled, "Genocide, Social Groups, and Criminal Trials." In addition to his scholarly work, he occasionally handles pro-bono criminal appeals of murder convictions in the United States.