



Cultural Diversity

A Programme of 4 free seminars

All Saints Community Centre
338 Church Street, Palmerston North

Wednesdays 2.15 – 4.00pm

**This seminar series is funded by Eastern & Central Community Trust
and is open to the public**

This series looks at four very different examples of the rise, nature and consequences of cultures, both in New Zealand and overseas.

October 12th: Diversity, dynamics and despair: culture, identity and society in the Middle East and North Africa

Dr. Nigel Parsons, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Massey University

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region comprises a vast array of ethnic, linguistic, religious and class identities. The peoples range between the ancient Persian cultures in the east to the Berbers or Amazigh of the Atlas mountains in the west; the Turkish and Kurdish peoples of Anatolia in the north and the various Arab and non-Arab Sudanese peoples in the south, and many other Arab, non-Arab, Jewish and Christian groups in-between. Cultural diversity is compounded by hyper-dynamic economic, social and political upheaval.

October 19th: Impacts of political decisions in the 1990s on contemporary New Zealand culture

Guy Donaldson is a local concert performer, conductor, teacher and music coach

Although technology has contributed significantly to societal and cultural change in New Zealand, calculated political decisions made from the mid 1980s, and particularly during the 1990s, have also significantly shaped New Zealand's contemporary culture and its values, and not always for the best. The seminar draws on a range of those decisions to demonstrate their immediate and long-term effects.

October 26th: Swagnificent – understanding the swagger of youth gang culture in NZ

Dr. Moses Ma'alo Faleolo, Lecturer in The School of Social Work, Massey University

According to the Urban Dictionary the term 'swagger' refers to how one presents him or herself to society in terms of the way they think, act, speak, dress and so on. This seminar examines the role that culture plays in NZ urban ethnic minority youth gangs and why some Samoan young people consider gang culture as more important than being a Samoan.

November 2nd: Travellers' tales: the invention of Latin America

Dr. Leonel Alvarado, Senior Lecturer in Spanish, School of Humanities, Massey University

Leonel will discuss how Latin American people, landscapes and cultures have been defined through the writings of European, North American, and Australasian travellers. Columbus's Diary, Raleigh's quest for El Dorado, the Scottish adventure in Panama, the Humboldt effect on Latin American nature, an American traveller purchasing a Mayan city, Victorian women dining in Patagonia, an Australian traversing the 'Camino de la muerte' in Bolivia and a kiwi traveller cycling through the Andes have contributed to the 'invention' of an entire continent.

Admission Free: Gold coin for tea/coffee and biscuits.

All Saints Community Centre is at the rear of All Saints Church, next to Square Edge, just off The Square. There is parking alongside the driveway, and in the row immediately behind the building.