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Books

Paul Axelrod's *Values in Conflict: The University, the Marketplace, and the Trials of Liberal Education* (Montreal/Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002) is a clarion call to policy makers, business leaders, and the public at large to rethink the current direction of the contemporary university. Liberal education, the core of higher learning, is at risk, threatened by the constricting pressures of the marketplace. Addressed to a broad readership, this book is a vigorous defence of the pleasures and importance of fostering the life of the mind.

For additional information, see www.mqup.mcgill.ca/book.php?bookid=1454

Conferences

British World Conference

Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 10-12 July 2003

Several years ago the Institute of Commonwealth Studies hosted a conference on "The British World c.1880s-c.1950s." The conference was based on the assumption that the British Empire was held together not merely by ties of trade and defence but by a shared sense of British identity, which linked British communities around the globe. The concept of a British identity was open to a variety of interpretations, both at home and in the overseas colonies settled by British emigrants. It was obviously strongest in those colonies where settlers of British origin were in the majority or at least, as in the case of South Africa, formed a substantial minority. Yet it could be embraced by those who were not of British origin but who found the idea of belonging to the Empire and of imperial citizenship appealing.

So successful was the conference that we decided to investigate the possibility of holding a series of conferences in each of the "Old Dominions" where the commitment to some form of British identity was the most pronounced, even if contested. The first of these conferences was hosted by the University of Cape Town and held in South Africa on 9-11 January 2002. Scholars from Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and various parts of Africa and Europe gathered together to hear over 50 papers. The second conference in the series will be held at the University of Calgary in Canada on 10-12 July 2003, hosted by the Calgary Institute for the Humanities. For the Calgary Conference the organizing committee consists of Jamie Belich (University of Auckland), Carl Bridge (Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King's College, London), Phil Buckner (Institute of Commonwealth Studies), Doug Francis (University of Calgary), Rob Holland (Institute of Commonwealth Studies), and Bill Nasson (University of Cape Town). Subsequent conferences will be hosted by the University of Melbourne in 2004, the University of Auckland in 2005, and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in 2006.

It is our intention that the focus of the conferences will continue to be on Britain and the "Old Dominions." Inevitably there is likely to be a preponderance of papers focusing on the country in which the conference is held, but we would like each of the conferences to include as wide a range of papers focusing on the other Dominions and, where appropriate, on other parts of the Empire, since our long-term goal is the creation of a network of scholars who are interested in the comparative study of the different "British" societies which formed part of the British World.

If you are interested in attending the Calgary conference or wish to be added to the general mailing list, please contact Professor Phillip Buckner by email at phillip@pbuckner.freemove.co.uk or by regular mail at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, 28 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DS.

