CONFERENCE NOTICE

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH WITH CULTURAL STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

MONGRELS, HALF-CASTES AND PARIAHS:
COLONIALISM AND MIXED-RACE IDENTITY PRODUCTION

A one-day conference to be held on Thursday 30 September 1999 in the fifth floor
Common Room, John Medley Building, University of Melbourne

SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:

Patrick Wolfe (Victoria University of Technology)
Joost Cote and Loes Westerbeek (Deakin University)
Tony Birch (University of Melbourne)
Glenn D’cruz (University of Melbourne)
Keith Butler (Billanook College)

There will be no registration charge for this event. For further information contact
Glenn D’cruz, conference convenor.
Tel: (03) 9344 5483 Fax: (03) 93445494 Email to: Glenn D'Cruz

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While postcolonialism has addressed issues connected with 'colonial desire' (Robert
Young) and cultural hybridity (Homi Bhabha), there is a relative paucity of
commentary on the 'mixed race' progeny of colonial encounters.

However, a number of recent publications indicate that questions addressing the
construction and political status of mixed-race identities have been posed within
several academic disciplines and various geo-political sites. For example, works like

In Australia, the recent work of the conference participants demonstrates that local historians and cultural critics are undertaking substantial research into 'mixed race' identities.

It is probably too early to assess whether this interest in 'mixed-race' represents a momentary trend within postcolonial scholarship, or a distinct sub-discipline. Nonetheless, a critical interrogation of recent 'mixed race' scholarship is timely. This interdisciplinary conference will bring together researchers and cultural producers to discuss the relationships between colonialism, globalisation and 'mixed-race' identities.

THE CONFERENCE WILL ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- How have specific administrative policies, and racial nomenclature impacted on 'mixed race' identities in different colonial theatres?
- How are 'mixed race' groups represented in colonial and postcolonial cultural production?
- What are the political implications of claiming a 'mixed-race' identity today?
- What are the transgressive and transformative possibilities of 'racial' convergences?