Living the Olympics: Sociality, Citizenship, Control – Schedule

11 September 2012, EB2.21, Parramatta Campus, University of Western Sydney

10am: Welcome, Professor David Rowe (University of Western Sydney)

10.15am-12.15pm Session 1: Professor Dick Hobbs (University of Essex) and Dr Gary Armstrong (Brunel University)

London’s Olympics 2012: The Political Economy of a “Gash”
This is the first of two papers produced as part of the Economic and Social Research Council-funded project “A Sociology of Policing and Police-Community Relations at the London 2012 Olympics”. This paper will introduce the arena selected to host the majority of the events, describe its history, its demographic make-up, and some of the background to the seven years of upheaval that preceded the Games themselves.

Let the Games be the Story
The Games involved the biggest movement of Police in the UK since the Miners strike of 1984-85. This second paper will describe some of the institutional context for the policing of Newham before and during the Games, the identification of threat and the location of risk, and the impact of the Games on the everyday policing of Newham.

12.15-1pm Lunch

1-3pm Session 2: Dr Jay Scherer (University of Alberta) and Professor David Rowe (University of Western Sydney)

Olympic Villages and Large-scale Urban Development: Crises of Capitalism, Deficits of Democracy?
This presentation examines how Vancouver inherited the entire responsibility for the construction of the 2010 Winter Olympic Village as a result of the 2008 economic crisis and a number of undisclosed local political commitments. In turn, it raises political questions about the democratic limitations of the entrepreneurial urban policy-making context and the disproportionate transfer of financial risk associated with these developments to the public sector. Finally, parallels are drawn between the experiences of Vancouver and the government bailout of the Olympic Village development in East London.

Ticketless at London 2012
The Olympics privilege, and are predominantly organised around, enclosed sporting events with limited stadium capacities and generally substantial costs of entry. They can, therefore, be regarded as rather exclusive activities, despite the open, universalist claims of the philosophy of Olympism. This paper, which is based on an observational research during the London 2012 Olympics, addresses the subject of cultural citizenship within the host Olympic city. It explores the cultural and leisure opportunities for residents and visitors during the Games for those who are either unable or unwilling to ‘be there’ in the stadium in real time, and, indeed, for those who have no particular interest in the competitive sporting dimension of the Games.
3-3.30pm *Afternoon Tea*

3.30-4.50pm *Session 3: Open Forum on Living the Olympics, Chair Dr Daryl Adair (University of Technology, Sydney)*

4.50-5pm *Symposium Close, Professor David Rowe (University of Western Sydney)*

*This Symposium is facilitated by the Institute for Cultural and Society’s Cultural Economy and Globalisation Theme Group.*