THE SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL CHANGE RESEARCH CENTRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY AND THE CENTRE FOR URBAN RESEARCH AND LEARNING, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO

invite you to participate in a video-conference on

‘COMMUNITY ORGANISING IN THE OBAMA ERA’

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2009
Time: 8.45am for 9:00am
(Refreshments will be served)
Venue: University of Western Sydney
Bankstown Campus
Bullecourt Avenue, Milperra
Video Conference Room 1.1.114
RSVP: g.gwyther@uws.edu.au by 23 March 2009

In the context of the first few months of the Obama administration, we are organizing a videoconference with activist researchers and community leaders in Chicago and Sydney to discuss the hopes and expectations of community organisations and non-profit agencies in the new political era. This grows out of our ongoing relationship with collaborative research centres at the University of Western Sydney and Loyola University, Chicago.

The purpose of the 90 minute video conference will be to provide a community leader view of political changes that are taking place in the U.S. Since Australia has also witnessed a change in leadership away from a governing conservative party, there is mutual interest in sharing information and perspectives. We expect this to be of great interest to community leaders and policy researchers interested in solutions to pressing affordable housing, community development, job creation, social service delivery, and education issues in Australia.

We anticipate the audience on both sides of this videoconference to include faculty, students, and importantly, community leaders from a variety of local communities. Assuming that the outcomes of this initial videoconference are of interest to participants, we anticipate scheduling occasional additional videoconferences. If there is continued interest, it is quite possible that more substantial exchanges of ideas and even working relationships could grow out of these videoconferences.

For further information please contact Dr Gabrielle Gwyther on 02 9772 6761 or email g.gwyther@uws.edu.au.