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**Department of History, School of Humanities
Seminar Series – Semester 2, 2016**

**Ivan Hrstić**

**‘“An Undesirable Shade of White”: Southern European Immigrants in the Press in Mid-1920s Australia’**

**Abstract**

After the introduction of the system of immigration quotas in the United States in 1921 and 1924, there was a rise in the number of immigrants arriving in Australia from Southern Europe. The response to this increase was one of great caution. The dominant public attitude was that Australia ought to remain primarily British, not only 'white'. The press had an important role in the formation of this view and the representation of immigrants in newspapers had a profound impact on how they were perceived, as well as on policymaking subsequently. This paper deals with different aspects of racial and ethnic relations in Australia in the mid-1920s through an examination of press reports on Southern European immigrants. The goal is to establish whether it is possible to talk about an atmosphere of moral panic with far-reaching consequences including discrimination towards immigrants and racism in everyday life.

**Ivan Hrstić** is a research associate at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar in Zagreb. His research and publications are mainly in the area of twentieth century European social history. He has contributed to several collaborative research projects in Croatia and his most recent publication is *Vrijeme promjena. Makarska 1918.-1929* (Time of Change. Makarska 1918-1929). In 2012 he held a fellowship at the Central European University in Budapest to undertake research on his doctorate. He is currently visiting the Department of History at the University of Adelaide as an Endeavour Research Fellow.

**Friday 28th October**

**12pm noon**

**Stretton Room, Napier 420**

**ALL WELCOME**