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## NEWS

### The challenge of governance across a rapidly changing world

13 Apr 2010

**The groundbreaking book 'Worlds in Transition', which explores democratic decision-making from local to planetary scale, will be launched at the University of Melbourne today. Co-authors Professor Jim Falk from the University of Melbourne and Professor Joseph Camilleri, from La Trobe University, have been praised for their work, providing 'insights into the perils of our era' and 'issuing a clarion call for a system of multi-tiered governance to address them.'**

The book focuses on the evolving challenges of governance- the effort to shape the present and future to meet human objectives- including that of their long term survival, and successful adaptation to rapidly changing circumstances including critical issues associated with finance, atmospheric pollution, information, pathogens and security threats.

Professor Falk, based in the Melbourne School of Land and Environment, says our laws and institutions are struggling to find a formula for effective decision-making which recognises a social reality which is global and planetary, yet comprised of diverse cultures, societies, religions and civilisations.

"Concepts of boundaries – either between states or between government, market, and civil society – are no longer so useful because of the interconnected way the modern world operates across them."

"Increasingly powerful voices are calling for democratic global decision-making which is easy to say but very hard to achieve. Reconciling the one and the many voices is the

#### More information:

<http://worlds-in-transition.com>

Professor Jim Falk, Director, Australian Centre for Science, Innovation and Society at the University of Melbourne. P: (03) 8344 0614 or 0412 290 885 E: [jfalk@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jfalk@unimelb.edu.au)  
Joseph Camilleri, Professor of International Relations and Director, Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University, P: (03) 9479 2698 or 0448 002 483; E: [j.camilleri@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:j.camilleri@latrobe.edu.au)  
Dr Nerissa Hannink, Media Office, University of Melbourne, P: 0430 588 055, [nhannink@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:nhannink@unimelb.edu.au)

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supreme challenge confronting contemporary governance. Future human adaptation depends on it.”

Using Copenhagen as an example of the difficulty in establishing a global agreement on climate change, the authors note “The concept of effective global-scale governance is not simply a case of allowing more states to have a say, important as that is, but of creating an environment in which different voices can be heard and listened to, the voices of the powerful and the weak, the North and the South, East and West.”

Leading Princeton University International Law expert, Emeritus Professor Richard Falk (no relation) commented that ‘Worlds in Transition’ is “An extraordinary book – the most comprehensive and profound assessment of the overall challenge of global governance yet available.”

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*tags: adaptation, democratic decision-making, global, governance*

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*Science and the Environments*

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Apr 12, 2010



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Aug 2008



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Authoriser:  
Vice-Principal, Marketing and Communications

Maintainer:  
Kelvin Param, Marketing and Communications

Email:  
[news@media.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:news@media.unimelb.edu.au)

The University of Melbourne ABN: 84 002 705 224  
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