The Bringing the Learning Home Team:

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The BTLH Students were exchange students from Macquarie University, Murdoch University, and the University of Wollongong.

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Instructions

The resources in this document are intended to accompany the Instructor’s Guide provided for the module, Stereotypes. These materials should be easier to photocopy for students to support the re-entry workshop outlined in that guide.

The documents should be distributed prior to the meeting for the workshop.
Globalisation & Australia

Fazal Rizvi & Bob Lingard, ‘no turning back…’

Fazal Rizvi and Bob Lingard, in a critique of educational globalisation policies which are premised on neo-liberal values, have argued that ‘the globalization genie has been let out of the bottle’ and that ‘there is no turning back’.

There is no return from the communication and information technologies that have transformed the nature of work, production processes and economic activity… Global movements of people have created diasporic networks that have redefined people’s identities and senses of belonging… Globalization has changed the ways people and communities now relate to each other. They (the more privileged) have developed cosmopolitan tastes for goods and services and for travel. Cultural diversity has now become a permanent feature of global cities… Globalization has also created new practices of governance, new possibilities of international cooperation, without which it is impossible to solve global environmental problems such as climate change… (Rizvi and Lindgard 2010: 195)
Michael Wesley, Australians ‘becoming more parochial’

Yet at the same time, Michael Wesley, director of the Lowy Institute, in his recent new book *There goes the neighbourhood* (2011), bemoaned the fact that in an era of mass international tourism, Australians are ironically becoming more parochial. Rather than becoming more Asia-centric in understanding, in line with the diplomatic, trade and security agenda pursued by successive Australian governments over the last thirty years, he believes Australians are becoming less internationally aware. Foreign travel is more about shopping, resorts and adventure tourism than engaging with a different culture. According to Wesley, the Lowy Institute’s research is showing that two decades of easy prosperity have made Australia complacent and bored by the rest of the world; we think we’re too small and too far away to make a difference anyway.

[These comments are taken from the introduction to an interview with Wesley on ABC Radio National, 2011]

These writers seem to be saying very different things about globalisation and its every day impact on Australia.

People have accused me of being in favor of globalization. This is equivalent to accusing me of being in favor of the sun rising in the morning.

Clare Short
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