

# Languages & Cultures Network for Australian Universities



## LCNAU's National Colloquium 2011



### The Australian Academy of the Humanities 2011 Triebel Lecture

Monday 26 September, 6.30-7.30pm

Public Lecture Theatre, Old Arts Building, The University of Melbourne

The Louis Triebel Lecture, inaugurated in 1986, is presented approximately every three years. It honours Professor L.A. Triebel (1890-1985), a Foundation Fellow, and is funded through a bequest to the Academy upon his death in 1985. The Triebel Lectures are generally themed in the area of modern European languages (i.e. other than English), a field which reflects the expertise of Professor Triebel, who was Chair in Modern Languages at the University of Tasmania.

**Professor Glenn Withers, AO, FASSA, CEO Universities Australia, will deliver the 2011 Triebel Lecture of the Australian Academy of the Humanities at the inaugural Colloquium of the Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities.**

*Creating a languages future:*

*How Australia can be world best practice in languages education*

At first superficial glance Australia may seem unpropitious soil for leading global languages education: an English speaking country in the antipodes. But reflect just a little and the idea is far from fantasy. Australia can surprise the world and often does. And the world's most multicultural and immigrant nation at the forefront of international education is actually in an excellent position to be best practice in languages education. A country of European heritage on the edge of a dynamic Asia with a world-ranking higher education system, can do it. Further key steps are needed. There is a policy hiatus to be overcome. But vision and some key component policy initiatives could deliver on this prospect. The goal, its rationale and the settings needed are the subject of this lecture which will seek to look at the place of European, Asian and Indigenous languages and culture, the role of higher education policies including research, the government framework policies needed in immigration and foreign policy, and the question of how Australian business and community can partner the project.

*Professor Glenn Withers is the Chief Executive Officer of Universities Australia. Previously he was Professor of Public Policy at the Australian National University, and a Professor at the Australia and New Zealand School of Government. Professor Withers also has extensive experience working in government including as Head of the Economic Planning Advisory Commission and Co-Chair of the National Population Council. Professor Withers is a Harvard PhD and was awarded an Order of Australia in 1992 for services to applied economics including for development of the Australian immigration points system. His academic research has included work on the arts, conscription, crime and broadcasting as well as economic and political history, labour markets and population.*