



# ***Development Studies: Research, Debates & Trajectories Conference***

***6 - 7 February 2020***

***Convened by:***





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# Development Studies: Research, Debates & Trajectories Conference

Hello and Welcome to the inaugural conference of the Development Studies Association of Australia, Development Studies: Research, Debates & Trajectories!

For those of you who have travelled for this conference, welcome to Deakin University, welcome to Melbourne, and/or wewwcome to Australia! As the convenor of the ICD@Deakin (International & Community Development) Research Group, hosts of the conference, and the Secretary, Development Studies Association of Australia, WELCOME!

This conference is a huge milestone for us. The DSAA was only registered in March 2019, and this is our first really major event. The DSAA was formed to be Australia's professional body for academic research plus teaching, policy and practice in the field of Development Studies. But the association did not appear out of a vacuum!

The DSAA is the culmination of a variety of prior associations, and numerous discussions by diverse stakeholders in Australia over the past five to ten years (or more), and we pay tribute to their work. Indeed, Australia has a very long track record of teaching and research in Development Studies. The first courses in Development Studies in Australia commenced 45 years ago, and the first Development Studies institutes and centres were established in the 1970s. Australia ranks highly in Development Studies research in global terms, and we have a large and vibrant community of scholars producing a significant body of graduates and research, across a large number of Australian universities.

The strong and diverse membership of the DSAA includes over 140 individual members, drawn from 26 Australian universities plus academics and researchers from overseas universities, development agencies, CSIRO, DFAT, ACFID and RDI Network. We also have 15 paid institutional members; 12 Australian universities plus RDI Network, CSIRO Land & Water and World Vision.

So it is particularly pleasing to see us all come together under the banner of the Development Studies Association of Australia like this.

Welcome to the community of academics and researchers in Development Studies based here in Australia!

The program for this conference is exciting! We have 2 wonderful international speakers, more than 100 panel papers and workshops, and several exciting roundtables—as well as the exciting Higher Degree by Research / Early Career Researcher (HDR/ECR) Day on 5 February.

Please join with me in thanking our donors, Deakin University for hosting this conference (with no venue charges), the DSAA executive committee and working group, our conference administrator Lorenza Lazzati, and the many volunteers who have put all this together.

As Convenor of this conference, welcome and enjoy!

### Anthony Ware

Associate Professor of International & Community Development, Deakin University  
Convenor, ICD@Deakin (International & Community Development) Research Group  
(conference host)  
Secretary, Development Studies Association of Australia (DSAA) and Convenor, DSAA  
Conference 5-7 Feb 2020

# DAY 1

# THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY

		Wadawurrung 1	Wadawurrung 2	Gunditjmara 1	Gunditjmara 2
9:00 - 10:15	PLENARY	Welcomes & Keynote Address Development as Solidarity: stories of hopeful, creative and convivial encounters	Welcomes & Keynote Address Development as Solidarity: stories of hopeful, creative and convivial encounters		
10:15 - 10:30	COFFEE				
10:30 - 12:00	PARALLEL SESSION 1	Indigeneity & Knowledges	Theoretical Explorations 1	Practice Workshops 1 & 2 - Enhancing Research Impact / Designing Development Programs	Migration, Trade and Defining 'Developing'
12:00 - 12:45	LUNCH				
12:45 - 2:15	PARALLEL SESSION 2	Peace & Conflict 1	Health: Policy & Practice	Practice Workshop 3 & 4 - Embracing Epistemic Diversity / Co-designing urban governance	South & Southeast Asia Livelihoods and Environmental Management
2:15 - 3:45	PARALLEL SESSION 3	Pacific climate, labour laws and civic engagement	Ethics in development	Practice Workshop 5 & 6 - Arts-based everyday peace / Youth agency through arts	Refugees & The Elderly
3:45 - 4:00	COFFEE				
4:00 - 5:30	PARALLEL SESSION 4	Evaluation & Design	Emotions, Affect and Power: A research agenda for development studies	Practice Workshop 7 - Unsettling development studies: classroom as Country	Africa insights: case studies on gender, development and labour
6:30	CONFERENCE DINNER				

**Welcome**  
**Room – Wadawurrung 1 & 2**

*Welcome to Country*  
Perry Wandin  
Elder of the Wurundjeri Tribe

*Welcome to Deakin University*

*Welcome to DSAA Conference*  
Tanya Jakimow, DSAA President,  
Anthony Ware, Conference Convenor

**Keynote Address**  
**Room – Wadawurrung 1 & 2**

*Development as Solidarity: stories of hopeful, creative and convivial encounters*

Uma Kothari, Professor of Migration and Postcolonial Studies, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester

We have made many advances in our thinking about development, significantly due to postcolonial and feminist critiques, but one area that continues to bedevil our attempts to achieve social justice is that we are unable to see others as our contemporaries. Indeed, development policies are founded upon creating and maintaining differences between people and places. Despite ongoing attempts to develop more equitable and effective partnerships and encourage the co-production of knowledge, this paper suggests that development ideas and practices continue to be anti-solidaristic. Problematically, a taken-for-granted assumption that development interventions exemplify solidarity because they are founded on ideas around universal rights and an ethics of care persists. Yet an absence of critical thinking that challenges dominant hierarchical narratives that foster the reproduction of inequalities perpetuates an inability to instil solidaristic principles. Drawing on historical and contemporary stories, this paper asks how we can reconceptualise development to promote new forms of solidarity. I explore how we might draw on distinctive development skills, experiences and history to identify the spaces and processes where solidarity can be forged. As such, the paper argues for a move towards development as solidarity.

**Uma Kothari** is Professor of Migration and Postcolonial Studies in the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester. She is the co-founder of the Manchester Migration Lab and is currently Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne. Her current work includes research on humanitarianism, development and solidarity, mobilities and borders and, cultural geographies of seafarers. She has published numerous articles and her books include *Participation: the new tyranny?*, *Development Theory and Practice: critical perspectives*, and *A Radical History of Development Studies*. She is the principal investigator on an ESRC funded project on Environmental Change and Everyday Lives and on an Australian Research Council Discovery Project on Everyday Lives in Small Island States. She is the Vice President of the European Association of Development Institutes and is on the advisory board of *In Place of War*, a support system for community artistic, creative and cultural organisations in places of conflict. She is a Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences and was conferred the Royal Geographical Society's Busk Medal for her contributions to research on global development.

**Indigeneity and Knowledges**  
**Room – Wadawurrung 1**

Moderator: Liz Cameron

*Entangled Knowledges for Development? Indigenous and Other Knowledges in the Context of Development Studies*

Michael Davis, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Sydney

*Relationality: stories of a relational ethos in practice*

Lauren Tynan, PhD candidate, Macquarie University

*Inside and Outside of Ourselves: International Development Workers in Timor-Leste on the Origins of Knowledges*

Sam Carroll-Bell, PhD Candidate, RMIT University

*The Suppression of Aboriginal Women as Traditional Healers; Budyari Malgun, the Esoteric 'Knowledge Holders'*

Liz Cameron, Professor & Chair of Indigenous Knowledges, Deakin University

*Entangled Knowledges for Development? Indigenous and Other Knowledges in the Context of Development Studies*

Michael Davis, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Sydney

This paper interrogates the role of Indigenous and local knowledges and their entanglements, in the context of development and development studies. There is a large literature on Indigenous knowledge and development (e.g. Sillitoe 1998; Agrawal 1995) that considers, among many aspects, the relationships between Indigenous and other knowledge systems in development, and calls for collaborative approaches between Indigenous peoples and others in development. Engaging with these debates and discussions, and, working within a postcolonial theoretical frame, this paper seeks a deeper inquiry into how Indigenous knowledges, as alternative epistemologies, might inform new thinking and approaches to development.

*Relationality: stories of a relational ethos in practice*

Lauren Tynan, PhD candidate, Macquarie University

Relationality describes a way of viewing or being with the world in kinship; a complex and layered network of connections, relationships

and responsibilities. From an Aboriginal or Indigenous worldview, relationality is learnt from the land itself, the original knowledge-holder and meaning-maker (Graham, 1999). Understood as 'Country', land is a living entity of infinite relationships. As our kin, Country also becomes our teacher, facilitating relationships with knowledge and each other.

This paper will outline the work of scholars who have been foundational to the theorising and practice of relationality. To reciprocate their contributions, the paper will then move toward stories of relationality and how Country and kin come together to share important messages for our teaching, research and meaning-making together.

How might relationality contribute to debates about teaching development studies in Australia? How can relationality and kinship extend current discussions about decolonisation? And, how do we embrace a relational ethos in our practice?



*Inside and Outside of Ourselves: International Development Workers in Timor-Leste on the Origins of Knowledges*

Sam Carroll-Bell, PhD Candidate, RMIT University

Development is a multifaceted human activity involving a wide variety of actors and interests. Underlying its practice is an equally complex collection of epistemological beliefs and assumptions. Reflecting upon the broader shifts that have occurred within the so-called Anthropology of Development literature, and drawing on primary research data, this paper examines the ‘source beliefs’ of International Development Workers (IDWs) operating in the post-conflict state of Timor-Leste. It argues that in using the terms ‘thoughts’ and ‘experience’, these workers tended to see knowledge as something that was intimately connected to, if not solely generated by, human activity and the analytical capabilities of the human mind; and that such descriptions are broadly representative of predominately modern ways of understanding knowledge. In so doing it contributes new understanding about the malae that are ‘here to help’ with the development of Timor-Leste.

*The Suppression of Aboriginal Women as Traditional Healers; Budyari Malgun, the Esoteric ‘Knowledge Holders’*

Liz Cameron, Professor & Chair of Indigenous Knowledges, Deakin University

As the oldest living culture, Australian Aboriginal people have survived over 120,000 years, often in harsh environments and conditions within an ever evolving climate change. The ability to survival and thrive is attributed to knowledges of preventative medicines and restorative therapeutic practices within each cultural-linguistic group. Whilst there is increasing worldviews on documentation on traditional shamans, there is little information that acknowledges Australian Aboriginal women and their intellectual knowledge within healing. It is argued that these ‘Knowledge Holders’ are the founding health practitioners that applied scientific reasonings and expertise surrounding the use of natural resources. This paper discusses the role of ‘Budyari Malgun’, women as ‘Knowledge Holders’ in traditional health practices by outlining cultural and spiritual theories of informed trans-generational knowledges from the Dharug Aboriginal Nation of New South Wales, Australia. Although women have been fundamental to cultural healing practices, their contributions in the production of Indigenous knowledge remains marginalised, overshadowed by Western patriarchal oppression, persecution, oppression, and gendered violence resulting in an omission and induced amnesia about the important role women play in healing.

## Theoretical Explorations 1 Room – Wadawurrung 2

Moderator: Max Kelly

*Multilateralism, challenges, and options for global development beyond neoliberalism?*

Max Kelly, Associate Professor, Deakin University

*Child Sponsorship in the Framework of a Human Rights-Based Approach*

Jae-Eun Noh, University of Queensland

*Extending intersectionality: assessing its possibilities for Gender and Development?*

Maree Pardy, Senior Lecturer, Deakin University

*Gnarly problems and provocative questions: Global development and global citizenship in conversation*

Sharon McLennan, Massey University Manawatu

*Multilateralism, challenges, and options for global development beyond neoliberalism?*

Max Kelly, Associate Professor, Deakin University

This paper unpacks multilateral approach to global issues, initiated by the postwar formation of the World Bank and IMF, multilateral institutions that have maintained a central role in an international development agenda globally. Over the intervening decades, there has been a range of critiques of the multilateral system, as well as the development system. However, the multilateral development system (MDS) has proved resistant to any major reform. The context for the debate is a dominant economic system that produces adverse results for equality, the rise of right-wing populism which challenges the very rules-based systems that drive the development agenda, and the emergence of alternative poles of power, which question the very existence of western-led development institutions. The first part of this paper reflects on neoliberalism, capitalism and the relevance of the neoliberal agenda to the multilateral development system (MDS). This critique has a particular focus on the impact of Neoliberalism and the rise and rise of inequality, as well as briefly engaging with the challenges from within (right wing populism), and without (rise of non traditional donors) to the existing MDS. The second part of the paper engages with alternatives to neoliberalism, in the form of a post neoliberal world. The final part of the chapter explores the response of the Bretton Woods institutions, specifically the IMF and World Bank to the failures of neoliberalism and alternatives, including a post neoliberal order. The aim of the paper is therefore to assess what, if any, conditions may promote the continued relevance of the World Bank and or the IMF in a rapidly changing political economic global organisation.

*Child Sponsorship in the Framework of a Human Rights-Based Approach*

Jae-Eun Noh, University of Queensland

Many NGOs which focus on development have operated child sponsorship programs due to their effectiveness in raising funds. Existing studies offer a critique of child sponsorship as a de-humanizing marketing strategy

and as a targeted service provision. Some NGOs have revised their child sponsorship by integrating it with a human rights-based approach to development (HRBA), which emerged rejecting the individual focus and disempowering process of development intervention. The objection of other HRBA NGOs to child sponsorship leaves questions about whether child sponsorship can fit a HRBA. The aim of the present study is to explore how child sponsorship is perceived and practised in relation to a HRBA in an NGO. The findings from a case study of ActionAid present how a HRBA guides ActionAid’s child sponsorship to promote empowerment, campaigning, solidarity and alternatives. This study identifies the potential of a HRBA to address problematic marketing and operational practices of child sponsorship as well as remaining issues. The complexity of NGO practices when aligning organizational practices with an RBA warrant further examination.

*Extending intersectionality: assessing its possibilities for Gender and Development?*

Maree Pardy, Senior Lecturer, Deakin University

One of the most productive theoretical critiques of intersectionality is that it remains limited by its logics of identity. These axes of identity[Symbol]race, gender, sexuality, culture, disability [Symbol]are typically Western and colonial in origin, as are notions of discrete identities based on them. It has been suggested therefore that intersectionality ought to be extended through a consideration of the ‘eventness’ of identity categories (Puar 2007, 2012). That is, through an analysis of the historical emergence of the categories, and how or whether they travel appropriately across geographical or geopolitical boundaries. This paper takes up this proposal by asking after the ‘eventness’ of the categories of race, gender, culture and disability in International Development. That is, how have they materialized as categories in Development and in Gender and Development discourse and practice? The paper goes on to demonstrate, that a transformation of Development through these categories has thus far failed. Moreover, it argues that ‘Development’ itself is one of the most

powerful and eventful axes of peoples' lives, and a major axis of oppression. Through an analysis of recent gender initiatives, the paper will argue that in order to effect meaningful change, feminist intersectional analysis ought to incorporate development as one its principal categories.

*Gnarly problems and provocative questions: Global development and global citizenship in conversation*

Sharon McLennan, Massey University  
Manawatu

In January Agnes Otzelberger posted a blog on The Good Jungle which presented five questions you need to ask yourself if you (want to) work in international development<sup>1</sup>, the first question being: What 'point of origin' underpins my work? The question is a provocative one with significant implications for development studies. It is also central to the teaching of a suite of citizenship courses at Massey University where students are encouraged to reflect on the multiple factors shaping their identity, including New Zealand's

colonial past, and to locate themselves in relation to gnarly global problems. This includes how they might be complicit in the perpetuation of injustices at home and globally, and the implications of this in terms of rights and responsibilities. These courses have been developed in the context of a university that has expressed a commitment to becoming Te Tiriti-led – that is, to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document of our nation, and its principles through our practice. In this paper I reflect on the process of teaching global citizenship as a Development Studies academic, in the context of a Tiriti-led university. In this paper I bring together research on global citizenship education at Massey with experience teaching in development studies to explore the implications of Otzelberger's origin question. I ask what we can learn from global citizenship debates, and what development studies has to offer in return. In doing so this paper casts light on current discussions on global development, and the unique perspective New Zealand development studies academics, students and graduates have to offer in relation to the gnarly problems currently facing our world.

## Practice Workshops 1 & 2 Room – Gunditjmara 1

*Enhancing Research Impact in International Development: a practical guide*  
Nichole Georgeou, Charles Hawksley & Philippa Smales

*Designing Development Programs*  
Tamara Haig, Nichole Georgeou & Charles Hawksley

*Enhancing Research Impact in International Development: a practical guide*

Nichole Georgeou, Charles Hawksley & Philippa Smales

This practice workshop introduces the RDI Network's new guide *Enhancing Research Impact for International Development* (ERIID): *A Practical guide for practitioners and researchers*. It provides a hands-on opportunity for development practitioners and academics to engage with the tools from the guide that aim to enhance the impact of development research.

Knowledge creation, exchange of knowledge, experiences, and implementation practice are central to achieving sustainable development

cooperation among diverse stakeholders. This practice workshop will use problem solving through case studies to engage participants in utilising the guide to assist their research engagement and knowledge exchange activities throughout various points in a project's life cycle.

Practitioners and academics will benefit from this session as they learn how to target, translate and transfer the outputs of their research to enhance research uptake and research use in the development context.

## Migration, Trade and Defining 'Developing' Room – Gunditjmara 2

Moderator: Lan Anh Hoang

*Promises of Free Trade & Development: Thailand's Discursive Battles over the Liberalisation of Dairy Products*  
Arisarawan Tanasinsiri

*Comparing international organizations' approaches to defining the "Developing country" category*  
Deborah Barros Leal Farias, Lecturer, University of New South Wales

*Migration, debts and development: the case of contract labour migration from Vietnam to Taiwan*  
Lan Anh Hoang, Senior Lecturer, The University of Melbourne

*Promises of Free Trade & Development: Thailand's Discursive Battles over the Liberalisation of Dairy Products*

Arisarawan Tanasinsiri

In 2004 Thailand started bilateral free trade agreement negotiations with New Zealand, a major dairy exporter. Despite claimed benefits of free trade, this move sparked public outcry and concern, particularly about the survival of Thai dairy farming, one of the most sensitive agricultural sectors. Fear of an uncertain future of dairy farmers in a highly competitive environment is evoked again as remaining transitional safeguards for dairy products will be lifted in 2025. The central question is: How has Thailand persisted with its neoliberal trade agendas despite protectionist resistance? Drawing on evidence from Thailand's engagement with New Zealand, this paper critically investigates discourses and strategies employed by Thai stakeholders to pursue their policy ideas or overcome opposing views. The analysis suggests that successful utilisation of certain discourses often benefits from unequal access to power and knowledge that goes unnoticed. Liberalisation is justified as necessary for economic growth and technology-transfer opportunities through development cooperation are framed as a panacea to rescue the Thai dairy sector. Greater focus is placed on market-based solutions in Thai discourses, while issues of vulnerabilities, structural constraints and asymmetric relations are rarely problematised. Hence this will further worsen the situation of those at the bottom of the chain.

*Comparing international organizations' approaches to defining the "Developing country" category*

Deborah Barros Leal Farias, Lecturer,  
University of New South Wales

For at least the last half-century, it has become commonplace to divide the world in two broad groups: developed and developing countries. International Organizations (IOs) have played a significant role in internalizing and reproducing the dichotomy in the international. Yet, there is significant variation in how IOs approach this categorization, i.e. who is a country "developing" country, according to whom, based on which criteria? On the surface, this issue might not amount to much: IOs define "developing" countries in different ways, so what? Two key points can be made as a rebuttal. The first and most important is that IO categorization of a country as "developing" (or not) can have concrete – and sometimes profound – legal, economic and political consequences. Second, each IO will have a different dataset related to numbers to their group of countries under the "developing" label. Thus, academic and policy research might reach different conclusions about developing countries and/or lead to the proposal of different actions depending on the chosen dataset. The present research provides a theoretical and empirical analysis on how some IOs approach the "developing country" category, which includes comparing decisions on nomenclature, criteria, stability in categories, and legal implications of being a "developing" country.

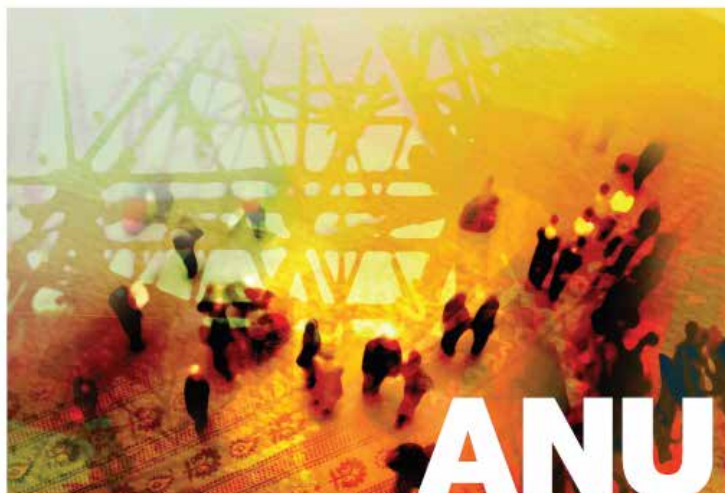


*Migration, debts and development: the case of contract labour migration from Vietnam to Taiwan*

Lan Anh Hoang, Senior Lecturer, The University of Melbourne

In January Agnes Otzelberger posted a blog on The Good Jungle which presented five questions you need to ask yourself if you (want to) work in international development<sup>1</sup>, the first question being: What 'point of origin' underpins my work? The question is a provocative one with significant implications for development studies. It is also central to the teaching of a suite of citizenship courses at Massey University where students are encouraged to reflect on the multiple factors shaping their identity, including New Zealand's colonial past, and to locate themselves in relation to gnarly global problems. This includes how they might be complicit in the perpetuation of injustices at home and globally, and the implications of this in terms of rights and responsibilities. These courses have been developed in the context of a university that has expressed a commitment to becoming Te Tiriti-led – that is, to uphold

the Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document of our nation, and its principles through our practice. In this paper I reflect on the process of teaching global citizenship as a Development Studies academic, in the context of a Tiriti-led university. In this paper I bring together research on global citizenship education at Massey with experience teaching in development studies to explore the implications of Otzelberger's origin question. I ask what we can learn from global citizenship debates, and what development studies has to offer in return. In doing so this paper casts light on current discussions on global development, and the unique perspective New Zealand development studies academics, students and graduates have to offer in relation to the gnarly problems currently facing our world.



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**Peace & Conflict 1****Wadawurrung 1**

Moderator: Anne Décobert

*Security Through Sustainable Peace*

John Langmore, Professor, The University of Melbourne

*'Health as a bridge to peace' in Myanmar's Kayin State: Working encounters for community development and peacebuilding*

Anne Décobert, The University of Melbourne

*Whose conflict analysis? Critiquing the 'conflict-sensitivity' approaches of international aid agencies*

Anthony Ware, Associate Professor, Deakin University

*The impact of post-transitional justice state development on long-term peace in Sierra Leone*

Christina Mammone, PhD Candidate, Flinders University

*Security Through Sustainable Peace*

John Langmore, Professor, The University of Melbourne

One of the essential conditions for global security and human flourishing is achievement of relative peace. Violent conflict is one of the most serious impediments to human, social and economic development and environmental wellbeing.

This paper reviews the experiences of DFAT's diplomatic personnel and its ongoing efforts to help reduce violent conflict, and to support peacemaking and peacebuilding. The survey involved interviewing about 120 serving and retired diplomats, and a few defence, police, academic and INGO staff.

The paper discusses some of the main findings relating to: first, the necessity for political leadership to prioritise diplomatic engagement and therefore develop strategy and policy. Second, how to re-establish and develop DFATs functions, capacity and structure to support conflict prevention and peacebuilding in foreign policy. Third, the imperative for guiding the Commonwealth's rationale and resourcing for diplomacy, to ensure that political solutions are afforded the primacy they require in whole-of-government approaches to addressing global challenges. The paper concludes by discussing the relevance of these recommendations for other countries.

*'Health as a bridge to peace' in Myanmar's Kayin State: Working encounters for community development and peacebuilding*

Anne Décobert, The University of Melbourne

This paper explores the idea of 'health as a bridge to peace' in Myanmar. It focuses on an Auxiliary Midwife training programme, which has created new partnerships between actors historically divided by decades-long conflict. Drawing on ethnographic research, the paper highlights the role and agency of community-level service providers, who are often ignored in conventional approaches to peacebuilding. It demonstrates that ethnic minority health workers in Myanmar are challenging top-down liberal approaches to peacebuilding and advancing an alternative approach to development and peace in their areas – one that emphasises structural change and recognition of non-state governance systems. Health programmes in conflict-affected areas bring together diverse actors not because they transcend politics – as is often claimed by analysts and practitioners – but because they provide a common lexicon and standardised practices that create 'working encounters' whilst still allowing for a multiplicity of perspectives and agendas. Nevertheless, 'working encounters' created by community health programmes provide significant potential for the development of trust and collaboration across conflict divides. Finally, this case study highlights structural limitations faced by community-level actors and which are often overlooked by proponents of the 'health as a bridge to peace' framework.

*Whose conflict analysis? Critiquing the 'conflict-sensitivity' approaches of international aid agencies*

Anthony Ware, Associate Professor, Deakin University

'Conflict-sensitivity' has become central to the planning and implementation of most development interventions in conflict-affected situations. An umbrella term encompassing a cluster of analytical frameworks and tools, it aims to analyse conflict dynamics and apply this to adapt interventions, such that they minimise negative impacts and maximise support for positive systemic change. Most approaches, however, treat the conflict or context analysis as largely technical, requiring external expertise. Thus while all *conflict-sensitivity* approaches espouse participation, it is not inherently embedded in any approaches. Noting the recent proliferation of conflict specialists working with international development agencies, and recent local, narrative and ethnographic 'turns' in conflict-peace studies, this paper surveys the literature and practice of *conflict-sensitivity* to analyse the extent of subaltern voice. Finding that practise widely limit participation to elite local or civil actors, or to the collection and re-telling of experiences for more technical experts to analyse, this paper argues that the more radical transformational and emancipatory aspirations of participation be reconsidered, and that recent participatory and ethnographic methodologies for conflict analysis be adopted by agencies. The paper's central argument is that subaltern people affected by conflict should not only be given voice to express their experiences and narratives, but that they are capable of articulating *analysis* of the conflict for themselves, and that their analysis ought to be heard.

*The impact of post-transitional justice state development on long-term peace in Sierra Leone*

Christina Mammone, PhD Candidate, Flinders University

In 2002 the West African state of Sierra Leone announced the official end to the eleven-year-long civil war. Forced to rebuild, the state was provided with an extensive transitional justice agenda and an opportunity to undergo significant state development. However, as we move closer to the twentieth anniversary of the official conclusion of the war, questions regarding the effectiveness of transitional justice's ability to ensure sustainable and long-term peace have emerged. Of concern is the lack of state development, despite the efforts promoted by transitional justice. With its colonial history cementing it as a periphery state prior to the conflict, a lack of state development directly influenced the war. However, state development had remained stagnant since the conclusion of the transitional justice efforts. Unable to shake its status as a periphery state Sierra Leone struggles to promote adequate state development, forcing it into a vulnerable position. The purpose of this paper is to consider two issues. Firstly, it considers the way in which transitional justice reinforced Sierra Leone's status as a periphery, directly undermining efforts of state development. Secondly, it considers how the lack of state development in Sierra Leone threatens the stability of long-term peace in the state.



## Health: Policy & Practice Room – Wadawurrung 2

Moderator: Adinda Tenriangke Muchtar

*Time-varying risks of trauma and post migration stressors in refugees' mental health during resettlement: Evidence from a longitudinal study*

Shuxian Wu, Andre Renzaho, Brian Hall, Lishuo Shi, Li Ling, Wen Chen, China & WSU

*Alarming anaemia rates amongst women represents a critical gender gap in Timor-Leste*

Katy Cornwell, Brian Hilton & Margy Dowling, World Vision

*Limitations and Potential of the National Childcare Policy in Cambodia*

Sambath My, PhD Candidate, The University of Melbourne

*Rural Development 4.0: Is it the panacea to improving the skills of health professionals in Indonesia?*

Adinda Tenriangke Muchtar, Executive Director, The Indonesian Institute / Victoria University of Wellington

Endah Setyaningsih, Teresa Sila Wikaningtyas.

*Time-varying risks of trauma and post migration stressors in refugees' mental health during resettlement: Evidence from a longitudinal study*

Shuxian Wu, Andre Renzaho, Brian Hall, Lishuo Shi, Li Ling, Wen Chen, China & WSU

Understanding the time-varying risks of pre- and post-migration stressors on refugees' mental health could be helpful in designing tailored health promotion services at different resettlement stages. However, these time-varying risks remain largely unstudied.

Using data from the first to fourth waves of the 'Building a New Life in Australia' project, we found an overall consistent, positive relation between pre-migration traumas and refugees' mental health problems over four years' survey, however not all annual risks were statistically significant. A positive and overall increasing relation was noted between loneliness and mental health problems over time, AOR (95% CI) increasing from 1.68 (1.29-2.18) to 2.28 (1.63-3.21) for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and from 1.81 (1.35-2.43) to 3.32 (2.26-4.86) for Sever-Mental-Illness (SMI). Significant positive relations were showed between economic stressors and mental health problems during the four years' survey with a peak at Wave 2 (1.70 (1.40-2.06) for PTSD, 1.97 (1.55-2.52) for SMI).

The results demonstrated that to improve refugees' mental health, trauma therapy should be delivered soon after resettlement and services to reduce loneliness could be

carried out throughout the resettlement process, especially at a later stage of resettlement. Improved economic conditions deserves attention and is relevant throughout the resettlement process.

*Alarming anaemia rates amongst women represents a critical gender gap in Timor-Leste*

Katy Cornwell, Brian Hilton & Margy Dowling, World Vision

World Vision (WV)'s Better Food, Better Health (BFBH) project is a nutrition-sensitive agriculture project aiming to improve nutrition for 31,806 direct beneficiaries in Timor-Leste. The project will promote production and utilisation of six 'superfoods': soybeans, mung beans, red kidney beans, orange sweet potato, moringa and eggs.

Baseline anthropometric results of women and children from four Timor-Leste Municipalities showed a high rate of stunting in children (aged 6-59 months) being 46% and wasting 24%. These correlated with the 2016 demographic health survey. The prevalence of anaemia in pregnant women and children was 50% for children (0-59 months) and 54% for pregnant women with some municipalities as high as 64%. Mild anaemia (Hb 10-10.9g/dl) was most common with very few cases of severe anaemia (Hb<7,0g/dl) being detected, suggesting that World Vision's food-based approach to reducing micronutrient deficiencies should be effective.

Midline results are showing a more than doubling of diet diversity with a corresponding sharp increase in the production and consumption of the 6 superfoods. It is expected that such changes observed in diet will result in reduced undernutrition and anaemia in women and children.

BFBH Project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

*Limitations and Potential of the National Childcare Policy in Cambodia*

Sambath My, PhD Candidate, The University of Melbourne

Care work has been recently incorporated in the international development agenda, and there is an emergent scholarship on such work in the developing world. As a contribution to this scholarship, this paper investigates how childcare is conceptualised in the National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Development (hereafter referred to as the National Childcare Policy) in Cambodia.

Deploying interpretive approaches to policy analysis and a 'care mix' concept, the paper illustrates that the National Childcare Policy has prioritised preschool education but ignored public daycare and legal enforcement on enterprise-funded daycare. Instead, the Policy has assigned the family to care for their children and feminised this childcare. Nevertheless, the paper argues that there is a possibility that the state can formalise daycare at preschools and state institutions and enforce legal provisions on daycare at business enterprises.

*Rural Development 4.0: Is it the panacea to improving the skills of health professionals in Indonesia?*

Adinda Tenriangke Muchtar, Executive Director, The Indonesian Institute / Victoria University of Wellington  
Endah Setyaningsih, Teresa Sila Wikaningtyas.

Countries including Indonesia have aggressively invested in technology. Tele-health and mobile health application have been used in the health sector to make services more accessible, including by those in rural areas. Such is the case of Indonesia, an archipelagic country with a great disparity of capacity between health professionals in urban and remote areas. Some health professionals, particularly in remote areas have limited opportunity to access the most current health information and to interact with their colleagues or other senior health professionals. This limitation affects their capacity in providing high quality healthcare services.

This qualitative research aims to examine the role of tele-health or mobile health application in improving health professionals' skills and capacities. It will apply literature review and interviews with health professionals in Nias, Mentawai, and East Nusa Tenggara, to investigate the extent to which the Government of Indonesia supports the capacity building of health professionals using technology. Initial review and observation showed that tele-health and mobile health applications are crucial in providing relevant and current information to the health professionals in remote areas. Health professionals are also able to consult their concerns with relevant experts. However, the fast communication process might infringe some medical ethics and confidentiality.

## Practice Workshops 3 & 4 Room – Gunditjmara 1

*Embracing Epistemic Diversity: Questioning the Researcher's Role, and the Role of Research*  
Stephanie Butcher, Ishita Chatterjee, Redento Recio & Tanzil Idmam Shafique

*Co-designing urban governance models using games*  
Tanja Rosenqvist

### *Embracing Epistemic Diversity: Questioning the Researcher's Role, and the Role of Research*

Stephanie Butcher, Ishita Chatterjee, Redento Recio & Tanzil Idmam Shafique

This workshop responds to the challenges of undertaking internationally engaged, collaborative, and action-oriented research across contexts of the 'Global South', from an Australian institution. It is led by four ECR researchers who operate at the intersection of research and practice, opening space for collective reflection on the demands of working across academic-practice partnerships.

This involves a number of tensions experienced by ECR and more established researchers alike, including: navigating the demands and bureaucracy of research funding institutions; a lack of diverse geographies and epistemologies especially in non-development based programmes (such as planning or architecture); and moving between the sometimes-competing institutional requirements of academia, and the ethical demands of doing engaged, policy-oriented or action-based research in partnership with vulnerable groups in developmental contexts.

This workshop will reflect on the nature of these challenges, bringing participants together in a 'world café' style discussion to examine these tensions (or others), and propose strategies for collaborative work which can foster a renewed sense of epistemic diversity and grounded knowledge production. By the end of the session, participants will have co-created a number of principles which outline key opportunities for collaboration, and highlight research and teaching approaches which can foreground diverse knowledges and experiences.

### *Co-designing urban governance models using games*

Tanja Rosenqvist

It is widely agreed that many development challenges are based in governance challenges. The implementation of urban infrastructure, for example, does not ensure ongoing public service provision. There is also a need for appropriate institutional arrangements to be set in place, managed, and continuously adapted to changing circumstances.

Identifying and implementing appropriate institutional arrangements is not an easy task. Political Economy Analysis (PEA) is often applied as a tool for exploring the political conditions leading to existing governance challenges, and identifying opportunities for improvement. PEA, however, is increasingly criticised for offering limited involvement of local stakeholders, for being 'too political', and for having little practical impact on governance.

In this workshop we explore how practitioners might use games to develop governance models in collaboration with relevant local stakeholders. Drawing on recent research, it is argued that games offer a highly collaborative, practical, non-political, and inclusive, alternative to PEA, that allows practitioners to engage for example, citizen, local government, and NGO stakeholders, in co-designing urban governance models.

The workshop takes one hour and includes a short presentation followed by exercises in small groups. Participants will experience two games and consider how they might use them in their own practice.

## South & Southeast Asia - Livelihoods and Environmental Management Room – Gunditjmara 2

Moderator: Andreas Neef

*Indebtedness and Livelihoods in rural Nepal: Water Access and other Determinants*  
David Fleming-Muñoz & Tira Foran

*Facilitating shared understanding of social-hydrology of Brahmaputra Basin for development in Assam Valley- Potential of systems thinking as a transdisciplinary heuristic*  
Navarun Varma, National University of Singapore  
Robert Wasson, James Cook University  
Arabinda Mishra, Nepal

*Tourism, Land Grabs and Displacement: Evidence from Southeast Asia*  
Andreas Neef, Professor, University of Auckland

*Coastal livelihood transition in Southeast Asia*  
Michael Fabiny et al, Associate Professor, University of Technology Sydney

### *Indebtedness and Livelihoods in rural Nepal: Water Access and other Determinants*

David Fleming-Muñoz & Tira Foran

Using household-level data from different regions of Nepal, in this paper, we investigate the drivers of economic vulnerability, defined by self-reported high levels of indebtedness, in rural households. Using discrete choice econometric models, we assess what factors increase (or decrease) the likelihood of a household to fall into high levels of indebtedness. We place particular focus on the effect of water access for agricultural and human consumption purposes. We complement this by contextualising the analysis, and the effect that water access shows in our results, within a livelihoods framework that aims to shed light on how three main drivers (land, water and employment access) can shape relative economic vulnerability across rural households. Results point the need for improved policies and infrastructure to reduce economic vulnerability and allow households to achieve more optimal livelihoods strategies.

### *Facilitating shared understanding of social-hydrology of Brahmaputra Basin for development in Assam Valley- Potential of systems thinking as a transdisciplinary heuristic*

Navarun Varma, National University of Singapore  
Robert Wasson, James Cook University  
Arabinda Mishra, Nepal

Floods and riverbank erosion are two crucial disaster events of the Assam Valley in the Northeast Region (NER) of India within Brahmaputra river basin. The great earthquake of 1950 changed the topographic relationship between the river channel and its floodplain, triggering a process of bank erosion along with annual floods. The discontent over land loss among riparian communities in the valley have contributed to their ongoing struggles for identity, autonomy and provided opportunity to community leaders to expand the scope of conflict to larger issues of livelihood loss and displacement in the region. At the same time the formal flood disaster management policy has only achieved a reframing of its technical interventions; from earthen embankment to riverbank protection using geo-textile revetments. The flood disaster management policy of Government of India currently misses the dynamic complexity between development needs, cultural nuances and aspirations of the riparian communities and the hydro-geomorphology of the basin. This study explores the potential of systems thinking as a transdisciplinary approach to facilitate shared understanding of the social-hydrology of Brahmaputra basin among stakeholders in Assam Valley. The study demonstrates opportunities for pedagogical and institutional innovations and boundaries for social learning to pave alternative and more integrated policy pathways.



Drawing on case studies from southern Thailand and southwestern Cambodia, this paper examines the role of tourism in the global rush for land, with particular emphasis on how tourism-related land grabs affect communal rights to land and other natural resources. Both cases build on qualitative field research – research conversations, semi-structured interviews and focus groups – conducted over several years. Taking Devine and Ojeda's (2017) concept of 'violent tourism geographies' and Neef and Grayman's (2018) 'tourism-disaster-conflict nexus' framework as theoretical lenses, I analyse various forms of dispossession, including enclosure, extraction, erasure, commodification, destructive creation, and neo-colonialism. The two case studies demonstrate that tourism can be a forceful threat to common-pool resources (e.g., mangrove forests, near-shore fisheries) and associated livelihoods. Tourism-induced dispossession and relocation may leave communities with no other choice than to engage in illegal resource extraction (logging and fishing in protected forest and marine areas). In conclusion, I will argue that without proper governance tourism can be as destructive as mining or other types of extractive industries that have proven detrimental to communal land rights and rural livelihoods. The paper closes with a discussion of national and international legal frameworks that could help mitigate tourism-related grabbing of communally managed natural resources.

This paper will assess and analyse the processes of coastal livelihood transition in Southeast Asia. Across the region, households are transitioning from capture fisheries to engage in newer livelihoods such as tourism, aquaculture and migration to urban centres. In many locations of SE Asia, the types of fisheries that households work in are also changing. These transitions are driven by and taking place in the context of much wider developments, including: changing patterns of fish consumption across Southeast Asia and globally; significant declines in capture fisheries in many locations; the increasing vulnerability to climate change; emerging patterns of spatial squeeze and 'coastal grabbing'; related patterns of agrarian change in inland areas; new forms of ocean and coastal governance; and changing livelihood aspirations. Drawing on inputs from a large team of co-authors, the paper will describe the extent of coastal livelihood transition among the nine maritime states of Southeast Asia, highlight key economic, environmental and social drivers and outcomes of coastal livelihood transition, and develop an empirically-grounded theorisation of coastal livelihood transition.

## **Pacific Climate, Labour Laws and Civic Engagement Room – Wadawurrung 1**

Moderator: Aidan Craney

*Reforming Labour Laws and Institutions in the Pacific Island Countries*

Sivendra Michael, PhD Candidate, University of Auckland

*Community Development through Carbon: A case study of the first Indigenous-owned forest carbon farming project in the Pacific*

Bridget Payne, master students, Victoria University of Wellington

*'Our time is now': Youth and civic engagement in Fiji and Solomon Islands*

Aidan Craney, Lecturer, La Trobe University

*Protection, climate-related displacement, and disaster risk reduction strategies in the Pacific*

Liam Moore

*Reforming Labour Laws and Institutions in the Pacific Island Countries*

Sivendra Michael, PhD Candidate, University of Auckland

Since late 2010, the ILO Office of Pacific Island Countries has provided technical assistance for labour law reform in Vanuatu, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Samoa. More recently this support was extended to Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu in response to growing demand for ILO's technical assistance for labour law reviews.

This paper discusses the drivers and national experiences of revising labour legislation and related institutions in several Pacific Island countries. The paper presents the ILO's perspective on these efforts based on the engagement of the ILO Office of Pacific Island Countries in these processes. Further, this paper identifies that the underlying challenge for labour law reform is a matter of good governance and concludes that for labour law reform initiatives to be successful, interventions must tackle the issues within a good governance framework and systematically address all elements of the policy cycle.

*Community Development through Carbon: A case study of the first Indigenous-owned forest carbon farming project in the Pacific*

Bridget Payne, master students, Victoria University of Wellington

Community forest carbon farming offers customary landowners an alternative livelihood to socially and environmentally unsustainable logging, through the sale of carbon offset credits. REDD+, the global forest carbon scheme to address deforestation in developing countries, has not achieved the conservation outcomes hoped and may have weakened forest governance at the community level. In contrast, community forest carbon promises to empower communities by managing forest resources locally. The Loru project in Vanuatu is the first of its kind in the Pacific, and indigenous landowners legally own the carbon rights and manage the carbon project. This paper examines the social impact of the Loru project on its indigenous project owners, the ni-Vanuatu Ser clan. The research is based on interviews conducted in Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu with indigenous landowners and members of the carbon project. It finds that the carbon revenue supports forest conservation, assists the community to transition from copra (coconut) harvesting to sustainable agroforestry, builds community capacity and strengthens customary land tenure. Overall, the research suggests that a community approach to forest carbon results in a positive social impact.

### *'Our time is now': Youth and civic engagement in Fiji and Solomon Islands*

Aidan Craney, Lecturer, La Trobe University

Like most Pacific island states, Fiji and Solomon Islands are currently experiencing a 'youth bulge', with around one-third of their populations aged between 15 and 34. As a result the future developmental outcomes in these states – across social, political and economic spheres – will be largely shaped by the capabilities of these young people as they enter the workforce and begin to occupy decision-making positions. Based primarily on interviews with youth activists and advocates, this paper discusses the political economy of young Fijians and Solomon Islanders: what social roles they are expected and allowed to play; how structures of state and society are helping them (or not) to achieve their individual and collective potentials; and examples of youth civic engagement and leadership. Although they are culturally positioned to be passive, deferent citizens, I argue that these young people are already important members of their communities, cultures and countries. Further, important lessons can be drawn from the most actively civically engaged amongst them to help positively shape their countries' developmental directions.

## **Ethics in development Room – Wadawurrung 2**

Moderator: Philippa Smales

### *Fostering a culture of ethical inquiry in international development studies*

Philippa Smales, Network and Partnerships Manager, RDI Network

### *Does size matter? Looking at the relationship between donors' volume of aid and their negotiation power in the fragile state of Afghanistan*

Safi Taye, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

### *Pathways to Urban Equality: What role for the SDGs?*

Stephanie Butcher, Research Fellow, Connected Cities Lab, The University of Melbourne

### *Protection, climate-related displacement, and disaster risk reduction strategies in the Pacific*

Liam Moore

Since the first IPCC reports, it has been clear that climate change will have a significant effect on patterns of human mobility. However, it is also accepted that environmental factors alone will not decide whether people, households, or communities are forced to flee their homes. I argue that when individuals are at risk of being displaced by climate-related hazards, the states they reside within have an obligation to protect them. Using a rights-based lens, I argue for a reconceptualisation of protection in the context of climate-related displacement, one which sees protection as a forward-looking, pre-emptive enterprise that encompasses positive, preventative actions. In the cases of climate-vulnerable communities, particularly those in low-lying coastal areas of Pacific nations, this protection would have a distinct development-related element. In this sense, protection would encompass forms of disaster risk reduction, community resilience building, and as a last resort, planned community relocations. Actions designed to reduce environmental risks and allow people to remain in their homes, or at least stay there for as long as possible, should be considered as forms of protection in the context of climate-related displacement.

### *Fostering a culture of ethical inquiry in international development studies*

Philippa Smales, Network and Partnerships Manager, RDI Network

International development and humanitarian work, including research and evaluation practice, relies upon the development of strong and trusting relationships between practitioners, researchers, local partners and communities. Due to these relationships, research conducted in developing countries and particularly in relation to development practice raises distinct ethical issues and dilemmas. The aim of this paper is to discuss the importance of the consideration of ethics in international development and humanitarian research, and how universities can incorporate a culture of ethical inquiry into the teaching of research and evaluation. It will highlight that good intentions, theory based learning and ethics committee approval are alone not enough for when students end up working 'in the field'. A culture of ethical inquiry needs to be fostered early, so that student can begin to strengthen their understanding and approach to ethics. It will also examine how principles and guidelines drafted expressly for and by the Australian international development sector is being used as a facilitator of ethical inquiry and good practice.

### *Pathways to Urban Equality: What role for the SDGs?*

Stephanie Butcher, Research Fellow, Connected Cities Lab, The University of Melbourne

We live in an increasingly urban, and an increasing unequal world. This is nowhere more evident than in cities of the Global South, where many residents live in highly unequal conditions, facing deep deprivations. In clear recognition of these challenges, the 2016 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) makes reference to the vital role of cities in addressing challenges of global significance (SDG 11), and well as the critical need to tackle inequalities between and within countries (SDG 10). The rallying cry to "leave no one behind" holds significant potential for residents of informal settlements, with an explicit call to ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services.

Yet as an agenda, the SDGs have also faced a series of criticisms: as an apolitical 'wish list' without clear prioritization, containing fundamental contradictions across its goals and targets, and with an overreliance on simplified metrics. Such works draw attention to the distance between global frameworks, and the everyday experiences of diverse woman and men in conditions of deep inequality.

This paper interrogates the potentials—and challenges—of the SDGs to act as a galvanizing force and political tool to build pathways towards urban equality. In particular, it highlights the critical value of drawing on diverse knowledges to inform and localize this agenda, building particularly from the experiences of organized groups of the urban poor.

### *Does size matter? Looking at the relationship between donors' volume of aid and their negotiation power in the fragile state of Afghanistan*

Safi Taye, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

Do donors with different volume of aid negotiate differently in the fragile state of Afghanistan? Since 2002, there have been over fifty different donor countries pouring money into Afghanistan, and there has been little discussion on the nature of their relationship with the government in Kabul. Analysing through power-dependency theory, the fieldwork data from German and Australian aid to Afghanistan highlights that while the volume of foreign aid is important, it is not the only factor to determine aid negotiations. In another word, the size of aid does not entirely matter; instead, negotiations are guided and influence by other or lesser obvious factors such as trust, historical relations, and most importantly, perceptions of donors in a recipient country, especially in such fragile context.



## Practice Workshops 5 & 6

Room – Gunditjmara 1

*Arts-based pedagogy for strengthening everyday peace formation*

Vicki-Ann Ware & Anthony Ware, Deakin University

*“I was born to stand out!” Urban youth agency through arts-based community development*

Sarah Williams, PhD candidate, Deakin University

### *Arts-based pedagogy for strengthening everyday peace formation*

Vicki-Ann Ware & Anthony Ware, Deakin University

Community development (CD) is unlikely to be sustainable in deeply divided societies, without addressing peacebuilding as well as development issues. ‘Everyday peace’ has been proposed in the literature, as the way individuals and groups navigate life in deeply divided societies to minimize conflict, and local action toward non-violent re-engagement post-conflict. Strengthening ‘everyday peace’ has thus been proposed as having a potential contribution to peace formation. We have used a CD approach to help strengthen ‘everyday peace’ formation through an asset-based-CD programme in Myanmar’s Rakhine-Rohingya conflict region, including with communities affected by the 2017 ethnic cleansing. We use innovative arts-based pedagogy to achieve critical-awareness-raising and changed attitudes towards the other, contributing to social change. Arts move people out of rational communication modes, to allow expression of new narratives. Inherently messy, creativity allows disordered expression without recourse to pre-existing thought-categories, deferring critical analysis, generating new insights and exploring alternative perspectives. We briefly introduce the key ideas of ‘everyday peace’, then demonstrate several arts-based pedagogy techniques within CD-programming by engaging

participants in several of our game/play and story/song/poetry writing training activities. The activities for this workshop are designed to broaden sense of identity from the narrow identities generated by conflict, and bring nuance to people’s perception of the Other.

### *“I was born to stand out!” Urban youth agency through arts-based community development*

Sarah Williams, PhD candidate, Deakin University

Young people from African backgrounds, as a minority group in Australia, have expressed that they often feel misunderstood by the wider Australian community as a result of misleading media reporting. This prohibits feelings of inclusion or “fitting in.”

Alongside Harris (2013), Dimitriadis (2007), I will argue that critical youth studies must also seek to engage the multiple ways that young people contest and move beyond these social frames in their everyday lives and cultural practices. This practise workshop will go through an arts-based community development approach through the organisation I co-founded *Footprint Enterprises Inc.*

As young people move to find and enact their “voice” within the sidelines of discourse this presentation highlights the complexity of needing to understand more specifically how they are negotiating their way. A myriad of actions could be taken by young people as a result – undertake the notion of “resistance” in what is defined as “gang culture” or demonstrate more creative ways or forces to ‘resist dominant culture and its logics’ such as through hip hop performances.

Through an intersectional and post-colonial lens, this workshop focuses on the notion of needing to understand the implications of this resistance and the ethical obligations we owe to young people as a result.

## Refugees & The Elderly

### Room – Gunditjmara 2

Moderator: Stephan Goetz

*Educational Experiences of South Sudanese refugees in Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)*

Gabriel Bul Yak

*Male Sudanese refugee experiences in Australia*

Kate Wallace, Masters student, The University of Melbourne

*Artistic and Creative Institutions, and the Elderly*

Stephan Goetz, Zheng Tian & Matthew Kaplan, Penn State Uni & Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

### *Educational Experiences of South Sudanese refugees in Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)*

Gabriel Bul Yak

This research attempts to explore the educational experiences of South Sudanese refugees in Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), the largest TAFE system in the ACT. Whilst majority of South Sudanese arrivals have their education interrupted by civil war in Africa, a significant number of South Sudanese refugees have selected a vocational education programme through TAFE after arriving in Australia. This is a result of approximately 30,000 South Sudanese refugees migrating to Australia in the last two decades. However, there has been little research into their educational experiences at TAFE. This research uses constructivist interview technique to collect data from South Sudanese refugee students, teachers and other key informants from CIT, and adopt the Honneth’s Theory of Immigrant’s Recognition to analyse barriers and opportunities that TAFE present for refugees’ integration into the VET system and Australian labour market. This research employs Kunz (1973, 1981) and Paludan (1974) theories of refugees and trauma, and Mezirow’s (1991) Transformational Learning Theoretical lens to understand different refugee outcomes, pattern and behaviours, selectiveness and movements and struggles during flight and settlement as well as experiences in TAFE.

### *Negotiating masculinities in Australia: The Sudanese refugee experience*

Kate Wallace

The move from a community-oriented African culture to Australian individualism can be challenging for Sudanese refugees. Sudanese men face a shift from traditionally dominant positions in their home countries to subordination based on race, ethnicity, and cultural difference upon migration to Australia. Refugee masculinities derive from specific contexts and the transition to new contexts, and the differences between these are key to understanding why male Sudanese refugees strategically ‘do gender’ in different ways throughout the resettlement process. This paper will address the specific question of how male Sudanese refugees (re) negotiate their masculinities and ‘do gender’ in the Australian context. This paper will approach the question through an exploration of existing qualitative studies that discuss the male Sudanese refugee experience in Australia. In doing so, this paper will draw the links between these narrative experiences and the power dynamics associated with dominant male hierarchies in Australia. This paper’s findings will demonstrate the relationships between the strategies employed by male Sudanese refugees in (re) negotiating their masculinities and the effects these negotiations have on their households. Understanding these relationships will assist practitioners in the refugee and migrant space to identify and advocate for policies and services that will promote more positive negotiation strategies.

### *Artistic and Creative Institutions, and the Elderly*

Stephan Goetz, Zheng Tian & Matthew Kaplan,  
Penn State Uni & Northeast Regional Center  
for Rural Development

Recent research has demonstrated that the arts and creative institutions, such as local artistic venues, galleries, exhibits, libraries and museums, etc. have tangible impacts in terms of economic and social development. With a rapidly aging population, especially in rural areas of many developed countries, this raises the question of whether the share of elderly (defined as >60 years of age) living in a community also is associated with a greater presence of such institutions. If so, a strategy of deliberately recruiting elderly citizens into

a community, or retaining those already there, could have beneficial local development spillover benefits.

We investigate this issue statistically at the level of over 3,000 U.S. counties and find, holding other relevant factors constant, that a larger share of elderly is associated with a greater presence of performing arts (NAICS 7111); museums and historical societies (7121); libraries (51912) and zoological gardens (71213). Each of these venues also provide opportunities for intergenerational exchange (e.g., grandparents and grandchildren). An extended analysis finds that having “too large” a share of elderly in a community eventually leads to a decline in the number of local arts and creative institutions. We also discuss various policy implications.

## Parallel Session 4 (4:00-5:30pm)

### Evaluation and Design Room – Wadawurrung 1

Moderator: Leanne Kelly

*DFAT-World Bank design differences: lessons learnt from Indo-Pacific cases*

Tamara Haig & Daniel Paez, DevDAS asnd INECA

*Unpacking disconnects between program evaluation and development values*

Leanne Kelly, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

*A Benefits Realization Approach for International Development Projects Evaluation*

Munir Ahmad Saeed & Tahmina Rashid, PhD candidate UNSW & Associate Professor, University of Canberra

*DFAT-World Bank design differences: lessons learnt from Indo-Pacific cases*

Tamara Haig & Daniel Paez, DevDAS asnd INECA

Design of international development projects is very particular to individual funders. Differences are significant between a country-based donor institution (for example DFAT, DFID or SDG) compare to multi-lateral or country-based development banks (such as the World Bank or the AFD).

This paper analysis similarities and differences between the Australian DFAT, which is a country donor, and the World Bank (multi-lateral lender). To achieve this, a systematic review of the structure, design guidelines and evaluation methodologies are analyzed for those institutions. The Investment Design Documents (IDDs) for DFAT and World Bank Group Project Appraisal Documents (PADs) from cases in the Indo-Pacific region were used as the main source of information. The paper shines a light on design practices of these donors, giving an often-overlooked subject some much-needed attention.

The case studies studied illustrated how the two agencies apply their respective design practices and distilled key similarities and differences in the application of their aid investments. Although funding mechanisms are significantly different in nature between the two institutions analysed, lessons for designers and opportunities for improvements were identified and analysed as part of the contribution of this paper.

*Unpacking disconnects between program evaluation and development values*

Leanne Kelly, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

Evaluation is all the rage. Discussions hailing the worth of measurement, results-based management, value for money, and evidence-based practice have infiltrated the international and community development field and been accepted with astonishing speed. While this results and evidence agenda has faced significant scepticism, dissenting voices are overpowered by the dominant paradigm that pushes experimental and quasi-experimental methods as the gold standard. Concerns regarding the results and evidence agenda are rife across many disciplines; however, this agenda is of particular concern when applied to international and community development.

Findings regarding program evaluation in small grassroots organisations are utilised to disrupt an axiomatic belief in the dominating evaluation discourse and to address and unpack critical elements of development practice that can be lost, ignored, undermined, or destroyed through inappropriate use of evaluation. The presentation challenges ideas around the best way to conduct and use evaluation in development activities and suggests that evaluation practice must consider and work directly within a development paradigm in order to support and enhance, rather than hinder and contradict, the processes and outcomes that development programs seek to achieve.





### *A Benefits Realization Approach for International Development Projects Evaluation*

Munir Ahmad Saeed & Tahmina Rashid, PhD candidate UNSW & Associate Professor, University of Canberra

Project success has frequently been discussed over the decades in the mainstream Project Management (PM) literature and achieving project success has been the holy grail of project practitioners and researchers. PM literature has been forcefully arguing for emphasis on project outcomes (benefits) rather than project outputs. In PM methodologies for International Development (ID) projects, assessment and evaluation processes are fundamentally flawed, as these focus more on the success of project management processes (delivery on time and

cost) rather than the on the project success after delivery so that stakeholders harvest expected benefits. It is pertinent to explore, whether benefits realization framework can be applied to ID projects so that emphasis is directed to the realization of expected benefits as criteria of success to ID projects. This paper explores how ID projects can benefit from the experiences of mainstream PM in benefits realization and thus achieving project success. What are the possible challenges in the application of benefits realization to ID projects and how benefits realization framework can be integrated into ID projects management methodologies and processes?

## **Emotions, Affect and Power: A research agenda for development studies Room – Wadawurrung 2**

Moderator: Tanya Jakimow

### *Emotions and politics of Australian development volunteering*

Susanne Schech, Professor Flinders University

### *Benevolent Discipline: Affect, Discourse, and Ethics in Disaster Reconstruction*

Kaira Zoe A. Cañete, PhD Candidate, University of New South Wales

### *'Tension Comes': Emotional Landscapes of Gender Violence in Nepal*

Sarah Homan, Research Associate, Equality Institute, Melbourne

### *'The Best Day of my Life': Temporalities of Affect in Extra-curricular development*

Annie McCarthy, Assistant Professor, University of Canberra

### *Emotions and politics of Australian development volunteering*

Susanne Schech, Professor Flinders University

International volunteering has played an important though perhaps underrated role in the global system of international development since the 1950s. By involving 'ordinary people' in international relations between so-called developed and underdeveloped countries, volunteer programs connect affective and political responses to global inequality. Volunteering for development has been variously analysed as an expression of mutual and reciprocal solidarity with strangers or as a largely depoliticised manifestation of the "humanitarian gaze" that reinforces established hierarchies of development (Mostafanezhad, 2014).

This paper will first analyse the ways in which emotion and affect feature in these contrasting analyses of volunteering. It then draws on research with Australian development volunteers to examine how they connect emotions and politics. This research shows that everyday encounters in overseas placements elicit a range of emotions as volunteers grapple with the privileges associated with coming from an affluent country and their shared humanity with not-so-distant others. Being in the space of others confronts volunteers with the global impacts of their own country's policies to protect these privileges. And this, at least for some volunteers, opens a space for cosmopolitan citizenship based around mutual solidarity.

### *Benevolent Discipline: Affect, Discourse, and Ethics in Disaster Reconstruction*

Kaira Zoe A. Cañete, PhD Candidate, University of New South Wales

Post-disaster situations are undeniably emotionally laden and affectively charged environments. In various disaster experiences, it is not uncommon for states to assume a posturing of care and concern for affected populations, and invoke solidarity in shared suffering and hopes for recovery – even if in actuality such posturing has also often been challenged and critiqued by the very 'objects' of the state's affections. Although disaster settings are intensely affective atmospheres, affective dimensions of state practice in post-disaster governance have surprisingly received scant attention in disaster scholarship. This paper examines the reconstruction of Tacloban City, a city that was devastated by typhoon Yolanda (internationally known as Haiyan) in 2013, and demonstrates how the mobilisation of affect, discourse, and ethics constitute a novel form of authority and governing which I call *benevolent discipline*. Through the concept of *benevolent discipline* I argue how planned ways of 'building back better' involve to a great extent instituting *ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving* around changes introduced to socio-spatial arrangements, livelihoods, housing, local environments, and community life. Here, affect and discourse are together employed to inscribe state fantasies of resilience, modernity, and a specific form of *moral development* onto 'vulnerable' bodies.

### *'Tension Comes': Emotional Landscapes of Gender Violence in Nepal*

Sarah Homan, Research Associate, Equality Institute, Melbourne

This paper argues that emotions are imbricated with development. Drawing on fieldwork undertaken in Nepal, I explore the anthropology of development, as 'an analysis of development as a cultural process'. My premise is that development as it is practiced often ignores emotional/cultural processes. Whilst conducting fieldwork with women's rights NGOs, I participated in gender violence interventions with female community members. In these spaces gender violence was articulated according to Human Rights and development frameworks. However,

outside the demarcated spaces of such a development setting, informants articulated violence more readily as 'tension', 'difficulty' and 'suffering' and were quick to discuss how these felt emotionally and in the body. They did not correlate them to broader more theoretical understandings of what actually constitutes violence as set out in development discourse. I argue that seeking to reconcile the disjuncture between development and articulated emotional landscapes of participants could lead to better-targeted violence interventions

### *'The Best Day of my Life': Temporalities of Affect in Extra-curricular development*

Annie McCarthy, Assistant Professor, University of Canberra

Children participating in NGO programs in Delhi during my fieldwork in 2013 frequently described their participation in NGO gala showcases, plays, dance performances and films as being 'the best day of their lives.' These spectacles of development, alongside other events like sporting competitions and art exhibitions, operate as the primary affective drivers of a type of development i have termed 'extra-curricular development.' This form of development relies on the affective power of extra-curricular skill to produce a model of development success which is not deferred to the future but is performed live in the present. This paper will explore these moments as co-produced by children and NGOs and explore their affective power both in 'the moment' but also long into the future. Beyond the original performance there moments circulate in 'success stories' spiralling outwards through NGO reports to networks of donors all over the world and from mouth to mouth through communities to villages in far away states.

## Practice Workshop 7 Room – Gunditjmara 1

*Unsettling development studies: classroom as Country*  
Lauren Tynan & Paul Hodge

*Unsettling development studies: classroom as Country*

Lauren Tynan & Paul Hodge

Following rich discussions from the 2018 ‘Pedagogy in Practice: how we teach in Development Studies Symposium’, this practice workshop offers questions that attend to Country and unsettle the ‘elsewhere’ of development studies. What does it mean to teach development studies in Australia on stolen land in respectful and generative ways? We invite you to join us in grappling with the challenges of teaching students to work respectfully and in culturally appropriate ways abroad, when we struggle to know what this looks like in our local contexts *on Country*.

The purpose of this practice workshop is to open up generative spaces to converse

and be vulnerable together, to embrace the unknown. Some potential prompts to open up discussion include:

- How do we understand universities as Country and encourage our students to do the same?
- What does a teaching space look like that invites difficult conversations but does so focusing on generative, practical teaching methods?
- How do we simultaneously attend to local *and* global place-based knowledges?
- In what ways are we working with Indigenous Knowledges to animate students to care-as-Country and to manifest this care in their practice?
- As educators, what kinds of facilitation, practices of self-reflection, and positionality are we modelling in class for our students?

## Africa insights: Case Studies on Gender, Development and Labour Room – Gunditjmara 2

Moderator: Bina Fernandez

*‘Now we welcome the birth of daughters’ – the migration of Ethiopian women and the transformation of gender relations*

Bina Fernandez, Senior Lecturer, The University of Melbourne

*Rethinking Women’s Empowerment: Insights from Ghana*

Charity Dodoo, PhD Candidate University of Melbourne

*Prosperity for the Poor: Religion, Poverty and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa*

Samuelson Appua & Matthew Mabefam, Lecturer RMIT & PhD candidate The University of Melbourne

*“A Reasonable Negotiation?” Trade Unions, Emotional Labor and Subjectivities in Zambia’s Neoliberal Development*

Thomas McNamara, Deputy Course director, Masters of International Development, La Trobe University

*‘Now we welcome the birth of daughters’ – the migration of Ethiopian women and the transformation of gender relations*

Bina Fernandez, Senior Lecturer, The University of Melbourne

Since the mid 1990s, large numbers of Ethiopian women migrate to countries in the Middle East, primarily on temporary contracts as domestic workers. This paper follows the trajectory of migrant women as they return home and documents the transformations brought about in Ethiopia by their migration. It begins by setting out in-depth contextual information on two communities with high levels of international migration: Oda Dawata and Kormageffia. Having laid out this context, I then use it to situate my analysis of the consequences of women’s migration for gender relations in these contexts. I draw on interviews with returnee migrants, family members of migrants, and community leaders in order to illuminate the post-migration changes within the women themselves, in their relationships with their families, and in the community. Some of these transformations fulfil the aspirations that drove the initial ‘will to change’ that led these Ethiopian women to migrate. However, for some women, the transformations result in the actualisation of prevailing fears and anxieties about migration. The paper also examines the unintended transformations that occur within families and communities, charting how familial bonds have changed and how gender norms and roles have been displaced or adapted in response to the return of migrant women.

*Rethinking Women’s Empowerment: Insights from Ghana*

Charity Dodoo, PhD Candidate University of Melbourne

Women’s empowerment is essential to realizing gender equality goals in different domains. However, despite universal consensus on the significance of promoting women’s empowerment as a global development goal, what constitutes empowerment for local women and the implications for their agency and realization of outcomes in their specific contexts remain poorly understood. Through an explorative case study of local women’s experiences and

understanding of empowerment in Northern Ghana, this paper, highlights important gaps in the ways the concept is being deployed in the development sector. My analysis shows that Ghanaian women’s understanding of the concept ‘women’s empowerment is rooted in socio-religious and traditionally gendered notions of ‘power’. By associating empowerment with the ability to exercise power as ‘strength’ ‘pose’ and weight, local women define their empowerment within the pursuit of cultural projects collectively valued by women and men in their specific context. I, therefore, argue that beyond politico-economic changes promoted by NGOs, for local women’s empowerment is primarily about ‘cultural projects’ where psychosocial and spiritual-wellbeing achievements occupy a central place. This paper enriches the literature on the significance of incorporating ‘cultural projects’ into empowerment theory and praxis.

*Prosperity for the Poor: Religion, Poverty and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa*

Samuelson Appua & Matthew Mabefam, Lecturer RMIT & PhD candidate The University of Melbourne

Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world, but it is also one of the most religious. Past and current development efforts at poverty alleviations have often overlooked the immutable role of religion in this regard. The authors invoke the case of the very popular Pentecostal prosperity gospel doctrine that promises material wealth and health to all believers through faith and monetary offerings to God (church). The authors examine how this doctrine is shaping local imaginations and moral agency of poverty and the pursuit of wealth in the market economy, as well as the ethics and apologetics of the doctrine’s material costs. This paper is therefore invitation to development stakeholders and researchers to take religion more seriously in the conversation on development and poverty alleviation in Africa



*"A Reasonable Negotiation?" Trade Unions, Emotional Labor and Subjectivities in Zambia's Neoliberal Development*

Thomas McNamara, Deputy Course director,  
Masters of International Development, La  
Trobe University

The Zambian Industrial Relations Act, Cap 269, requires that both unions and employers act reasonably in wage negotiations. However, the law gives no indication of what reasonableness means, with senior members of Zambia's labor ministry, mining HR departments and trade unionists all providing differing definitions of 'reasonable'. Yet common to each understanding is that it is unions, rather than mining companies, who are unreasonable in negotiations,

regardless of how little the companies offer their workers. Through the discursive device of reasonableness, trade union leaders are implored to take on moral responsibility for the health of the company and industry and for national development and are told that this health exists in direct opposition to achieving higher wages for their members. This discourse encourages them to adopt a neoliberal understanding of how wages are determined and the relationship between wages, investment and development. This paper explores how expectations of national development are deployed by mining companies and the state, in a manner which keeps down wages. It also argues for conceptualizing wages as a key issue in development studies.

**Conference Dinner  
(6:30-8:30pm)**

Community Hub at The Dock (Multipurpose Room)  
107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands VIC 3008



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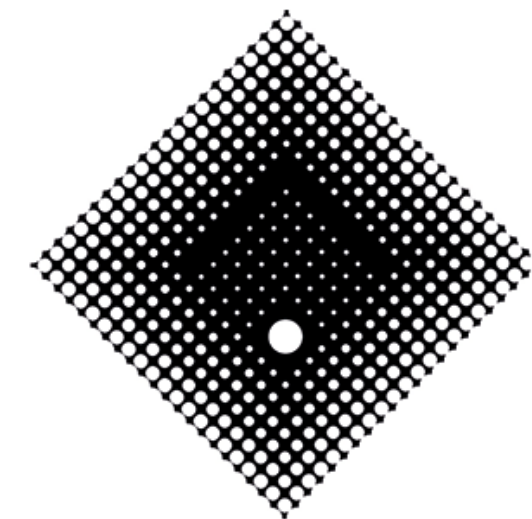
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# VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

DAY 2		FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY			
		Wadawurrung 1	Wadawurrung 2	Gunditjmara 1	Gunditjmara 2
9:00 - 10:00	PLENARY	Keynote Address	Keynote Address		
10:00 - 10:45	PLENARY	DSAA discussion & Announcement	DSAA discussion & Announcement		
10:45 - 11:00	COFFEE				
11:00 - 12:30	PARALLEL SESSION 5		Theoretical Explorations 2	Peace & Conflict 2	Development Studies, Pedagogies and Reflective Practice
12:30 - 1:15	LUNCH				
1:15 - 2:45	PARALLEL SESSION 6	Roundtable: Embedding Teaching and Learning into Australia & New Zealand's International Development Community of Practice	Theoretical Explorations 3	Environmental Governance: Challenges and prospects for collaboration in democratizing Nepal	Research & Communication Design
2:45 - 4:15	PARALLEL SESSION 7	Microfinance: Failures, Resistance and New Forms	Humanitarian Principles & Perspectives	Community Development Practices and Inclusion	Economics, Aid Allocation, Well-being
4:15 - 4:30	COFFEE				
4:30 - 5:30	PARALLEL SESSION 8	Economics, History and Power	Peace & Conflict 3	South Asia Economic & Political Development	Income Generation & Economic Empowerment



## Keynote Address

### Room – Wadawurrung 1 & 2

Yvonne Underhill-Sem, Associate Professor of Gender and Development, The University of Auckland

**Yvonne Te Ruki-Rangi-O-Tangaroa Underhill-Sem** is an Associate Professor of Gender and Development at The University of Auckland, feminist geographer of Cook Island/New Zealand heritage. She was the Director of Development Studies at The University of Auckland (2008-2014), and Director, New Zealand Institute for Pacific Research (2017-2018). She is currently co-chair of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Advisory Research Group and a member of the International Geography Union's Gender and Geography Commission. She is involved in the governance of Oxfam in the Pacific, a former board member of Oxfam NZ, and was co-chair of Oxfam NZ 2015-2018. One of her key current research projects is working towards a feminist post-colonial development of the Pacific.

## DSAA Discussion & Announcement

### Room – Wadawurrung 1 & 2

Tanya Jakimow, DSAA President



## DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Anyone committed to engaging with Development Studies and furthering the objectives of the Association is eligible to become a member. Membership is open to academics, students and practitioners, in and beyond Australia



## Theoretical Explorations 2

### Room – Wadawurrung 2

Moderator: Jonathan Makuwira

*Beyond Geography: Development Studies Associations, World Systems and Complexity Theories*

Jonathan Makuwira, Professor & Deputy Vice Chancellor, Malawi University of Science and Technology

*A researcher in the qualitative research tradition of social sciences- an active participant of the knowledge production*

Jeevika Vivekananthan, Research Assistant, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership Deakin University

*The right(s) approach to research: addressing inherent inequalities in development research*

Loksee Leung, Sarah Homan, Stephanie Miedema, Xian Warner, Emma Fulu

*Fast Connectivity and Slow Violence: Contesting 'Connectivity as Development' Narratives*

Kearrin Sims, Lecturer, James Cook University

*Beyond Geography: Development Studies Associations, World Systems and Complexity Theories*

Jonathan Makuwira, Professor & Deputy Vice Chancellor, Malawi University of Science and Technology

As Australia celebrates the establishment of Development Studies Association of Australia (DSAA), there is equally an important need to equally look beyond the confines of its mandate. Often times Development Studies Associations have tended to confine themselves within particular geographical locations and pay little attention to the interconnectedness and implications of development policies of governments where these associations are operating from, and how such policies affect the wider development agendas of developing economies. Using World Systems and Complexity Theories I argue, in this paper, that while DSAA's mandate is to "promote critical inquiry, reflection, research, teaching and the value of development studies in Australia", its impact must be seen from how Australian foreign policy impacts on the development agendas of countries to which Australia has

national interest. As such, the paper engages two theoretical lenses – World Systems and Complexity theories to highlight the subtleties of foreign policies and how Development Studies Associations must actively engage with them in order to make development studies, as an area of academic inquiry, impactful. An example of Australia's foreign policy to Sus-Saharan Africa is the case in point.

*A researcher in the qualitative research tradition of social sciences- an active participant of the knowledge production*

Jeevika Vivekananthan, Research Assistant, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership Deakin University

At universities of Western ideologies, research students are taught how to fill up an ethics application to convince institutionalised ethics committees, obtain informed consent from community participants, distant themselves from their research objects/subjects and defend their research findings from academic scrutiny. What happens when they step into real-world scenarios in which they interact with human emotions, relationships and different worldviews? What is the responsibility of a researcher in the qualitative research tradition of social sciences?

This paper discusses the author's experiences of conducting qualitative research in post-war Northern Sri Lanka as well as in the Pacific communities in Australia. It suggests that researchers in development and humanitarian studies must be 'active participants' of knowledge production throughout the research process. They need to listen, empathise, reciprocate and respect human feelings, experiences and perspectives. The paper argues that the active participation of a researcher with his/ her research participants can democratise and decolonise the production of the knowledge.

*The right(s) approach to research: addressing inherent inequalities in development research*

Loksee Leung, Sarah Homan, Stephanie Miedema, Xian Warner, Emma Fulu

Since the mid-1990s, there's been a growing focus on rights-based approaches to development practice and, more recently, concepts of 'social justice' are being applied in international development discourse. If a key objective of development is addressing inequality and transforming unequal power structures, then arguably, the research that informs development practice should itself be a process which actively addresses the many forms of inequalities inherent to the contexts we work in. While the rights-based approach to development practice is well-established, currently there is little guidance on rights-based development research, or research methods which prioritises social justice outcomes.

Emerging from our research on gender inequality in the global south, we propose six principles to guide rights-based development research: ethics, collaboration and participation, transformation, intersectionality, accessibility, and accountability.

Drawing on five decades of combined experience conducting quantitative and qualitative research in low- and middle-income countries, we highlight the challenges and opportunities for incorporating a rights-based approach throughout the research process – from research design through to data collection and the communication of findings. Using practical examples from countries, such as Timor-Leste and Kiribati, we illustrate that it is not only possible to apply rights-based research principles to large-scale, development research in the global south, but that this should become a priority for good development practice.

*Fast Connectivity and Slow Violence: Contesting 'Connectivity as Development' Narratives*

Kearrin Sims, Lecturer, James Cook University

Every national socio-economic development plan of Southeast Asian states for the past decade has stressed that future socio-economic development requires greater regional connectivity. This connectivity push has also been emphasized in the key regional reports of leading multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, as well as in all ASEAN 'roadmaps' and 'blueprints'.

In this paper I challenge the normative view

that connectivity equals development by reframing regional integration in Mainland Southeast Asia as a form of 'slow violence'. Drawing on recent work by Davies (2019), I argue that the gradual but persistent brutalities that have accompanied connectivity can be cumulatively understood as a process of 'slow violence'. Connectivity is not constitutive of development – or at least not inclusive development. Rather, connectivity involves exclusionary processes that expose disadvantaged groups to persistent threats against their livelihoods and wellbeing. In making this argument I draw on my own empirical research alongside a wide spectrum of academic literature that explores how development processes across the region have wrought new forms of marginalization, disadvantage and harm.

**Peace & Conflict 2  
Room – Gunditjmara 1**

Moderator: Vicki-Ann Ware

*Arts- and sports-based spaces for exploring conflict and disempowerment in development contexts Symbol/metaphor in arts-based peacebuilding – helping build sustainable CD outcomes in conflict-affected communities*

Vicki-Ann Ware, Senior Lecturer, Deakin University

*Goals, interests and discord: Exploring the conflicts hidden in a 'Music Development for Reconciliation' project in Sri Lanka*

Gillian Howell, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Griffith University

*Playing in the Margins - Makhampom, Pang Daeng Nok, and a 22-year arts-based partnership in Northern Thailand*

Richard Barber, Director, Free Theatre

*Leveraging cultural traditions and popular pursuits for female empowerment and the Sustainable Development Goals*

Karen Shrosbery, journalist, Australian Broadcasting Commission

*Arts- and sports-based spaces for exploring conflict and disempowerment in development contexts Symbol/metaphor in arts-based peacebuilding – helping build sustainable CD outcomes in conflict-affected communities*

Vicki-Ann Ware, Senior Lecturer, Deakin University

In conflict-affected regions, community development (CD) is unlikely to produce sustainable outcomes. Hence, there is growing recognition of the need to incorporate conflict-transformation approaches into CD programming. Concurrently, there is growing

recognition in peace and conflict studies of the value of alternative approaches – using arts, sports and other creative avenues – for creating spaces for grassroots conversations, and shifting key attitudes and narratives perpetuating local-level conflict.

Conflict transformation theories suggest several key skills needed to shift conflict-supporting attitudes, including: empathy and understanding others' perspectives; shared identity and commitment to cooperation; and practical conflict resolution & de-escalation skills. Adult education theory also suggests



key roles for reflection and emotional rather than rational learning, to achieve social change.

In this presentation, I argue arts-based programming has powerful potential to provide spaces for these processes and skills to develop. I will provide a brief overview of theories supporting this approach within CD programmes. I then present a case study focused on one important aspect of arts-based approaches: symbol & metaphor, and their role in facilitating: 1) the safe, liminal spaces required for re-examining values and narratives; 2) empathy and the emotional commitment to peace, which supports rational decision-making in everyday life.

*Goals, interests and discord: Exploring the conflicts hidden in a 'Music Development for Reconciliation' project in Sri Lanka*

Gillian Howell, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Griffith University

Like many forms of intangible cultural heritage, music practices and the eco-systems that support them are vulnerable to the forces of globalisation, disaster, war, and displacement. Music-development projects respond to this vulnerability, and outside interveners have a valued role to play. When taking place within a development framework, music-development often becomes music-for-development, rationalised for its capacity to deliver social and other benefits, and picking up an additional set of stakeholder interests (what different stakeholders want it to deliver) alongside its musical goals. But music-for-development's value-adding potential can mask the fact that some of these added goals and interests are incompatible or obstructive of each other, compromising a project's capacity to fully realise any of its goals. The case of the Sri Lanka Norway Music Cooperation, 2009-2018, offers a useful example of this tension between competing goals and interests. The SLNMC aimed to both strengthen and revitalise the Sri Lankan folk music traditions and strengthen reconciliation across Sri Lanka's divided communities. Using Boltanski and Thevenot's 2006 theoretical framework of 'economies of worth', and Intergroup Contact Theory (Allport, 1954), I will show that the interests embedded in the SLNMC ultimately compromised its capacity to sustainably deliver on its two main goals.

*Playing in the Margins - Makhampom, Pang Daeng Nok, and a 22-year arts-based partnership in Northern Thailand*

Richard Barber, Director, Free Theatre

In 1998, four members of Thailand's Makhampom Theatre Group joined a protest in response to a mass arrest in the stateless dara'ang village of Pang Daeng Nok in Northern Thailand. Makhampom subsequently located its community theatre program in Chiang Dao, developing the Makhampom Art Space as the hub for a two-decade long partnership with the Pang Daeng Nok community.

The Makhampom-Pang Daeng Nok relationship developed has evolved through a theatre praxis, invoking asset-based community development and conflict transformation principles. The proximity of the Makhampom organisation to the Pang Daeng Nok community enabled a complex, multi-layered process of engagement, resembling a form of arts-based deliberative democracy, particularly in response to the eviction and relocation of the Pang Daeng Nok community in 2011.

This Makhampom-Pang Daeng partnership influenced the cultural and social identity of both village community and theatre group. The development of a social enterprise partnership responded to economic autonomy and community agency imperatives and the group's creation of a conflict transformation technique, dialogue theatre, was shaped by an imperative to address systemic and institutionalised discrimination and persecution. This paper will explore the complexity of this evolved process of arts-based community development and conflict transformation.

*Leveraging cultural traditions and popular pursuits for female empowerment and the Sustainable Development Goals*

Karen Shrosbery, journalist, Australian Broadcasting Commission

According to UNESCO, only 4% of sports media content is dedicated to women's sport and only 12% of sports news is presented by women, (UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay (2018). This mirrors gender roles more generally, with women generally

excluded from public life and relegated to the domestic realm in Pacific societies. In this presentation, I provide a case study of a sports journalism-based development project recently funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This project aims to empower women through both professional capacity building in sports journalism and modelling alternatives to strict the gender roles of traditional society. The journalistic artefacts produced by these women leverage the Pacific's cultural storytelling, engaging the popularity of sport, delivered with a highly shareable, low data usage distribution

## Development Studies Pedagogies, Research and Reflective Practice Room - Gunditjmara 2

Moderator: Tahmina Rashid

*Development studies in the Antipodes: a reflection ten years on*  
Patrick Kilby, Senior Lecturer, Australian National University

*(De)Colonising pedagogies and Praxis of Development Studies - Teaching International Development to Aspiring Development Practitioners from the South*  
Tahmina Rashid, Associate Professor, University of Canberra

*Reflective practice in teaching gender research*  
Sonia Palmieri & Melissa MacLean, Australian National University

*Emerging trends in conflict research - Ethnographic Peace Research*  
Shannon Harmer McSolvin, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

*Development studies in the Antipodes: a reflection ten years on*

Patrick Kilby, Senior Lecturer, Australian National University

This paper addresses the central theme of the conference and that is what development studies means in Australia. It starts as its starting point the international symposium 'Development Studies in the Antipodes: Current Research and Praxis', held at Flinders University, in 2010, and reflects on the ten years since and the extent to which development studies' focus has adapted to a rapidly changing development environment. The symposium marked the 30th anniversary of the University's Centre for Development Studies, and that the late 1970s and early 1980s was period of rapid growth and debate in development studies. In 2010 Schech referred to the 'Euro American squint and power structures of the academy' and that the antipodes (Australia and New Zealand)

strategy to exploit the realities of the digital media era. I will use the case study to show how this development project has contributed to empowerment of Pacific women to achieve sporting and professional aspirations that may have been previously unattainable. I will also critically discuss the strengths and limitations of such a project may contribute to achieving SDGs 3 and 4.

was on the periphery of development thinking with only two scholars making the 'cut' in David Simon's reference book of *Key Thinkers on Development*. What was interesting was that their focus was on Asia Pacific. This paper will review the last ten year and ask whether development studies has kept a rather colonial/anti-colonial mindset, or adapted to the global changes of the Global South's assertiveness, the rise of China as a major development actor in its own right, and the decline of the West and DAC as global development players.

*(De)Colonising pedagogies and Praxis of Development Studies - Teaching International Development to Aspiring Development Practitioners from the South*

Tahmina Rashid, Associate Professor, University of Canberra

A good number of international students from African, Asian and South American

regions enrol in International Development/ Development studies courses in Australian universities. Only a fraction of them are funded through Australian scholarships, the rest are self-funded students, aiming to work in the development sector upon return; or seek permanent residency in Australia. These aspiring development practitioners have a range of expectations and in addition to settling in a different cultural and academic setting have to deal with a range of pedagogical issues. This paper is based on focus group discussions with international students (at UC) and presents their voices that are raw, unpolished, and non-scholarly. These voices highlight the issues around language; power; coloniality; non-western intellectual traditions; notion of development; politics of development and aid; and indigeneity of knowledge, briefly touching Freire as well as critical whiteness theory. These voices highlight the need, not only to decolonise pedagogies and praxis of development but to incorporate the voices of these students and adapt non-traditional teaching methods that benefit students but also inform the teaching practices in Australian universities.

#### *Reflective practice in teaching gender research*

Sonia Palmieri & Melissa MacLean, Australian National University

In the same vein as feminist research methodology, a recent trend in gender and development research has been to equip local researchers with the skills to design and implement research projects that meaningfully resonate with them and their communities (Tickner 2005, 2018). In 2017, the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) initiated a three-year research project on women's pathways to leadership as a collaborative exercise with a number of women's grassroots organisations based in Cambodia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, supported by established research practitioners (the authors). The project's inclusive research design had a number of objectives, including more nuanced, localised understanding of the research context, and a more sustainable cadre of local researchers to continue this work in the future. This paper argues that the project has required an adaptive and reflective approach to research practice,

which has led over time to a greater focus on the developmental goal of capacity building than on the goal of knowledge generation/ expansion.

#### *Emerging trends in conflict research - Ethnographic Peace Research*

Shannon Harmer McSolvin, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

Emerging trends in conflict research such as Ethnographic Peace Research (EPR) provides overarching methodological frameworks for adaptive, reflexive and contextualised understanding of conflicts and their impacts on local societies. EPR utilises the strengths of anthropological enquiry, such as 'thick description' found in ethnography for a bottom-up approach to peace research. EPR is not a rigid methodology, but flexible and adaptive to the context allowing multiple approaches with "ethnographic imagination" (Millar, 2018:11) that allow researchers to build relationship with participants is reflexive, collaborative and privileges local knowledge systems. Given the need for conflict-sensitive approaches to development to ensure long term sustainability in conflict affected societies, development research may benefit from engagement with these methodologies in order to understand the nuanced and often complex socio-political contexts and their implications on people's lives.

### **Roundtable: Embedding Teaching and Learning into Australia and New Zealand's International Development Community of Practice**

#### **Room - Wadawurrung 1**

Moderator: Kearnin Sims

Australia's international development community of practice has grown in strength over recent years. Through the work of the RDI Network and numerous other actors there has been a notable increase in dialogue and partnerships across the academia-policy-practice nexus. One notable deficit within such growing communication and cooperation, however, has been the limited integration of teaching and learning activities with emergent academic-practitioner exchanges. With the arrival of the DSAA, this Roundtable discussion seeks to explore strategies for building greater teaching and learning collaboration across Australian and New Zealand universities - and between universities and policy/practitioner organisations. In particular, it considers (1) how we - as a community of scholars - can respond to an increasingly neoliberalised and competitive higher-education system by

working together to improve development studies learning outcomes across Australia and New Zealand, and (2) what nascent and emergent opportunities exist for development studies work-integrated learning, fieldwork experiences, and internship programs?

#### *Participants:*

Tanya Jakimow, Associate Professor, Australian National University  
Jonathan Makuwira, Professor & Deputy Vice Chancellor, Malawi University of Science and Technology  
Kearnin Sims, Lecturer, James Cook University  
Philippa Smales, Network and Partnerships Manager, RDI Network  
Rochelle Stewart-Withers, Senior Lecturer, Massey University NZ  
Susan Engel,

### **Theoretical Explorations 3**

#### **Room - Wadawurrung 2**

Moderator: Chris Roche

*The role of territory and space in determining power configurations: Lessons from Somalia*  
Stephanie Carver, PhD Candidate, Monash University

*How do we know that our work works? Building evidence for the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration approach for land restoration*  
Katy Cornwell and Anne Crawford, World Vision

*Learning to think and research politically: Confessions of a research institute*  
Chris Roche, Linda Kelly, Chris Adams & Danielle Campbell, La Trobe University

#### *The role of territory and space in determining power configurations: Lessons from Somalia*

Stephanie Carver, PhD Candidate, Monash University

Territorial space can play a significant role in determining how various actor groups can access resources and power. Control over

space and the ability to access spaces is often contested by both formal and informal actors and the outcomes of these contests can significantly affect the capacity of the state. In places such as Somalia, the inability of particular groups, including NGO, state and illicit actors to access spaces can determine how power is channeled through these spaces



and how the state capacity is built. In this paper I examine the role of Somalia's maritime pirates and their interactions with other actor groups including NGO and regional state actors and consider the extent to which pirates have the capacity to challenge and shape the access to maritime spaces and the types of power configurations that result.

*How do we know that our work works?  
Building evidence for the Farmer Managed  
Natural Regeneration approach for land  
restoration*

Katy Cornwell and Anne Crawford, World Vision

In the current milieu of shrinking development resources, development organisations are under increasing pressure to demonstrate that their interventions are producing desired change. Demand for evidence on the effectiveness of interventions, both from individual and institutional donors, is growing.

Farmer-Managed-Natural-Regeneration (FMNR) is a rapid, low-cost and sustainable land restoration and natural resource management approach, currently practised across more than 25 countries to restore and improve forest, agricultural and pasture lands. As the world pivots to addressing the challenges of climate change, it offers significant possibilities in terms of food security and improved resilience for vulnerable communities.

In this presentation, we provide results of a meta-analysis of impact in FMNR across recently completed World Vision projects incorporating the FMNR approach. The findings are triangulated and explored further using results and insights from one of the projects undertaken in Talensi, Ghana. Results suggest FMNR leads to improved land and soil quality, improved tree cover, increased availability of wood and forest products as well as improvements in income, poverty, food security and wellbeing of children.

Both the strategy to evidence building for development, and the insights from this innovative land restoration approach will be explored. Learning from WVA's experience can be of use to other development and community organisations faced with similar challenges.

*Learning to think and research politically:  
Confessions of a research institute*

Chris Roche, Linda Kelly, Chris Adams & Danielle Campbell, La Trobe University

Thinking and working politically may be the new mantra for development agencies, yet development researchers often neglect to do this themselves when they conduct and communicate research. In the same way that politics is key to reform, politics is key to research uptake.

Researchers need to walk the talk. This presentation will share insights from the experience of the Institute for Human Security and Social Change and the Developmental Leadership Program (DLP) on what we have learnt about how – and how not – to work politically to address the gap between research and practice. A decade of DLP research has shown that building political will for change is a collective process whereby motivated individuals work together to overcome collective action problems and change established ideas. A similar process arguably needs to happen within research-funder partnerships to build the political will for research uptake. Based on insights from a recent impact review, and our experience in the Pacific, we will move beyond the obvious conclusion that there is not a linear path from evidence to impact, to explore the multiple intersecting pathways involved, and the politics which underpin the process.

We will conclude by exploring how the literature on the politics of evidence and results in international development can help illuminate our understanding of these processes, as well as problematise issues of what kinds of knowledge are valued by international development agencies, and what alternatives might look like - based on our experience in Indigenous Australia. This will include what the implications might be for the teaching of development studies.

## Environmental Governance: Challenges and prospects for collaboration in democratizing Nepal

### Room – Gunditjmara 1

Moderator: Tira Foran

*Non-state research groups and the co-production of environmental policy knowledge: Lessons from the three decades of experience in Nepal's forest and water sectors*  
Hemant R Ojha & Prativa Sapkota, Institute for Studies and Development Worldwide

*Planning in democratising river basins: insights from Nepal*  
Tira Foran, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisations (CSIRO)

*Collaborative marginalisation? The struggle of Nepal's indigenous Bote and Majhi communities in the face of modernist development*  
Krishna Shrestha, University of New South Wales

*Non-state research groups and the co-production of environmental policy knowledge: Lessons from the three decades of experience in Nepal's forest and water sectors*

Hemant R Ojha & Prativa Sapkota, Institute for Studies and Development Worldwide

Drawing on the work of the author as a practitioner in two non-state research groups (NSRG) in Nepal during 1996-2010, and also based on continuing collaborative research, this paper analyses the potential and promises of environmental NSRGs to produce knowledge and influence environmental policies. Three key lessons are highlighted. First, while these groups significantly expanded policy debate beyond the standard techno-developmental frameworks, their work was significantly inscribed within the logic of an aid-based political economy. Second, when Nepal underwent democratic political transformation after the 2006 peace deal, the role of NSRGs has weakened, particularly with the emergence of a more democratic state with stronger legitimacy of directly elected leaders to represent the civil society. Third, NSRGs themselves have failed to engage in inquiry and policy dialogues around securing their own political space. A key conclusion is that the non-state research community has potential to enhance environmental knowledge co-production, but their effectiveness is greatly determined by their ability to self-organise and co-produce their own policy space.

*Planning in democratising river basins: insights from Nepal*

Tira Foran, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisations (CSIRO)

I reflect on the challenges of integrative river basin planning in Nepal. The principles of Integrated Water Resources Management have been promoted across states and regions with markedly different biophysical and political economic conditions. IWRM-based river basin planning is complex, resource intensive, and aspirational. It deserves scrutiny to improve process and outcome legitimacy. I focus on the value of co-production and deliberation in IWRM. Based on experience co-designing and facilitating participatory planning for Nepal's Kamala river basin, I argue that: (i) multi-stakeholder participation can be complicated by competition between actors for resources and legitimacy; (ii) despite such challenges, multi-stakeholder deliberative approaches can empower actors and can be an effective means for co-producing knowledge; (iii) tensions between (rational choice and coproductive) models of decision complicate participatory deliberative planning. Our experience suggests that a commitment to co-productive decision-making fosters socially legitimate IWRM outcomes.

*Collaborative marginalisation? The struggle of Nepal's indigenous Bote and Majhi communities in the face of modernist development*

Krishna Shrestha, University of New South Wales

The paper analyses the changing relationship of Nepal's Bote and Majhi indigenous communities with their environments from a political ecological perspective. Drawing on case studies and ethnographic research on two communities, I argue that a 'collaborative marginalisation' has occurred through: a) forced migration, displacement and dispossession of livelihoods by developmental policies and projects; b) the top-down neo-liberal approach to regulation of rivers and land; c) institutionalised racism and discrimination by the majority ruling alliance; d) suppression of local resistance in the

name of broader public goods; and e) creation of negative, hegemonic narratives about indigenous identity, culture and way of living. An effective developmental state could instead recognise how indigenous communities struggle, plan and implement ideas to realise their interest of sustainable natural resource management, and how and why their environmental and development practice aligns or contradicts with the 'modern' development planning practice of the state. Given that indigenous communities are deemed to have succeeded if they have not failed, it is important for the modernist development to learn from the metrics that indigenous communities themselves use to define their collective success, and the best practices of these communities that could be used to negotiate forces of modernity and indigeneity to the advantage of communities and environment.

## Research & Communication Design Room – Gunditjmara 2

Moderator: Maria Rodrigues

*Searching for the nexus between Public Relations (PR) and Communication for Development (C4D): making communication interventions relevant for communities*

Bhupesh Joshi, PhD Candidate, University of New South Wales

*Digital Technologies for Development: Assessing Opportunities and Risks for a Case-study of internet kiosks in Uganda*

Khadija Mohamud, PhD Candidate, Open University

*(Imagined) benefits and (real) limitations of engaging in participatory research with local disability organizations as a higher degree research student*

Ekawati Liu, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

*Designing research to strengthen social and community development*

Maria Rodrigues, Research Coordinator, Community Works

*Searching for the nexus between Public Relations (PR) and Communication for Development (C4D): making communication interventions relevant for communities*

Bhupesh Joshi, PhD Candidate, University of New South Wales

This presentation will discuss recent advances in critical PR and C4D. Marginalised communities often find themselves excluded from the communication initiatives of development organisations. Critical development scholars attribute this trend

to the predominance of modernisation approaches that are management-driven and conform to pre-existing power structures (Craig & Porter, 1997; Escobar, 1995; Melkote & Steeves, 2001). In my doctoral research, I investigate how non-managerial approaches that regard communication as a cyclical process and view it under a socio-cultural and socio-political lens (Edwards, 2018; Edwards & Hodges, 2011; Melkote & Steeves, 2009; Servaes, 2016) can transform communication interventions in development.

In this presentation, I will discuss how studying

commonalities and differences between PR and C4D in light of these advances can improve communication programmes in the field of development. I will also draw conclusions on how one can make PR practice more suitable for community development and social action by shifting its focus from organisations to society and culture.

*Digital Technologies for Development: Assessing Opportunities and Risks for a Case-study of internet kiosks in Uganda*

Khadija Mohamud, PhD Candidate, Open University

African governments and the international community have invested heavily in education. Despite these efforts, a number of challenges remain which the World Bank and other development agencies have termed as a 'learning crisis'. In response, numerous Information Communication and Technology for Development (ICT4D) projects emerged creating digital opportunities that complement formal schooling and enhanced use of ICT to address extreme poverty.

This paper presents a case-study outlining the impact of one ICT4D initiative, which installed solar powered 'learning kiosks' in underprivileged communities in Central Uganda. It contextualises the concept of community inclusivity in implementing ICT4D in low-income communities which has not been examined in this context.

Initial data analysis of 20 participant case studies suggests that the learning kiosks impacted positively on both young people and adults users. Young people developed various transferrable skills; teachers improved their teaching practice; and community users learnt strategies to reduce extreme poverty through enhancing their businesses.

The paper outlines opportunities and challenges specific to the Uganda context and concludes by highlighting key recommendations in relation to sustainability of the impacts to drive viable outcomes. The recommendations serve to improve these kiosks and other comparable projects in similar contexts that are challenged with sustainability issues.

*(Imagined) benefits and (real) limitations of engaging in participatory research with local disability organizations as a higher degree research student*

Ekawati Liu, PhD Candidate, Deakin University

Participation of every form is a mainstay of development practices and for over decades almost all institutions of higher education and research have yet to fully support its application in knowledge production process. Grant funding opportunities for doctoral/ master-level students and early career researchers in development studies to initiate collaborative research partnership across disciplines or community organizations are sparse compared to discipline-specific funding resources. Also institutional ethical review processes for research based in community do not often accommodate the roles and perspectives of community regarding data ownership, analysis and usage. These disconnects are particularly troubling when there is growing shift toward more people-centered approach and evidence-informed policy making within the development industries. Drawing on 10-month collaborative research on livelihoods experiences of villagers with disability in Indonesia, I discuss (imagined) benefits and (real) limitations of engaging in participatory research with local disability organization as higher degree research student. Attempts in ensuring the principles of participation and collaboration from all stages of research, from design to data interpretation and dissemination will be highlighted along with issues related to positionings due to interactions with different research partners and participants, ethics in the field and boundaries in co-managing the grant with community organisation.

*Designing research to strengthen social and community development*

Maria Rodrigues, Research Coordinator, Community Works

Development studies research tends to be output-oriented, meaning focused on the production of written materials and other resources that people can use to improve practice. What is often overlooked is how the process of participating in research can produce benefits for people engaged in development work, particularly when it comes to multisectoral or collective impact



initiatives. This paper shares what we have learned about conducting process-oriented research that aims to maximise the benefits for participants by (1) engaging key stakeholders in research design, (2) building in space and flexibility for elicitive approaches, (3) creating multidirectional learning processes that strengthen local capacity, (4) creating visual tools to support engagement (5) producing research outputs that add

practical value for frontline workers, and (6) managing feedback processes to include key participants in the verification of findings. We argue that improving process-orientation can add value to the quality and impact of research conducted in development settings by opening doors for improved dialogue, stronger stakeholder relationships, and a higher level of engagement with the research and its outputs.

## Parallel Session 7 (2:45-4:15pm)

### Microfinance: Failures, Resistance and New Forms Room – Wadawurrung 1

Moderator: Samantha Gunawardana

*Resisting microfinance debt in post-war Sri Lanka*

Nedha DeSilva, Buddhima Padmasiri and Samantha Gunawardana

*The persistence of masculinity norms as a challenge for financial empowerment of women: a study on microfinance receiving households in rural Bangladesh*

Tunvir Ahamed Shohel, Sara Niner & Samantha Gunawardana

*Better microfinance? Emerging and savings led models*

Sara Niner, Saba Mebrantu & Leo Castenada

*Resisting microfinance debt in post-war Sri Lanka*

Nedha DeSilva, Buddhima Padmasiri and Samantha Gunawardana

This paper examines how and why communities resist microfinance in a war-affected context. In Sri Lanka, microfinance has a long history dating back to the 19th century, but significantly expanded in its current form during the separatist war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the government of Sri Lanka (1983 – 2009). Post-war, the government immediately launched a \$26 million microfinance program for the North East, while in other regions of the country, microfinance continued to grow exponentially.

Along with government initiatives such as the ‘Awakening North’ program and other non-governmental institutional projects, microfinance was considered as pathway

to reduce poverty in war affected regions via empowering women to become more entrepreneurial. However, microfinance has contributed to financial instability and disputes among and within war affected communities. This has led to resistance and advocacy movements which highlight unregulated high interest rates, negative institutional practices such as deceptive advertisements and complex terminology, inadequate documentation, lack of communicational channels for clients to make complaints, loss of savings in group loans, usage of abuse, violence and harassment on clients and negative incidents such as suicides and deaths. The paper contributes to understandings of post-war economic development programs and how they may or may not lay the foundation for enduring peace.

*The persistence of masculinity norms as a challenge for financial empowerment of women: a study on microfinance receiving households in rural Bangladesh*

Tunvir Ahamed Shohel, Sara Niner & Samantha Gunawardana

A significant body of multi-disciplinary research now highlights women’s empowerment and financial inclusion via microfinance programs. This is based on the assumption that an increase in women’s household financial contribution gains them greater decision-making power in the household. However, the relationship between the practice of patriarchal gender norms and women’s financial empowerment approach(es) has seldom been explored.

In this research, we draw upon gender socialization and gender performance theory to understand how gender norms associated with patriarchy influence women’s financial empowerment of microfinance receiving households in rural Bangladesh. We employed a mixed-method design (331 survey and 33 in-depth interviews) with microfinance recipient women and their husbands in the southern region (Dumuria sub-district) of Bangladesh.

Findings demonstrate that participation in microfinance programs has not shifted gender norms nor empowered women. Women’s loan was largely controlled by men as proscribed by underlying, unchanging gender norms. The childhood socialization process and repetitive

gender performance across the generations profoundly reproduced a gendered division of labour that reinforced restrictions on women’s behaviour and mobility, and men’s dominance in household and economic decision-making.

*Better microfinance? Emerging and savings led models*

Sara Niner, Saba Mebrantu & Leo Castenada

Micro-savings programs have been less at the forefront of the public debate but an emerging body of research has shown it might have significant positive social returns. Though this program still includes the practice of loaning money, it is from the pool of savings of group members. There are many different types of micro-savings but Globally, Oxfam is promoting the Saving for Change (SFC) model, which targets poor women in rural areas, assisting them in improving their savings habits and using the accumulated monies to make loans to others in their group. A recent internal study showed a modestly positive effect on income, resilience, and enhanced social capital. Another example is PACT’s WORTH program, which brings together groups of poor women and uses a combination of literacy training, community banking. this paper discusses some of these new and emerging forms of microfinace that are responses to the criticisms of mainstream models.

Humanitarian Principles & Perspectives  
Room – Wadawurrung 2

Moderator: Matthew Clarke

*Vale the Humanitarian Principles*

Matthew Clarke, Alfred Deakin Professor & Head of School, Deakin University

*Routes of humanitarianism: Mapping the lives of practitioners in disaster relief, development, and activism*

Cameron Tero, Chair for Community Development, Murdoch University

*From resettled refugees to humanitarian actors: Motivations, modalities and implications of diaspora humanitarianism*

Louise Olliff, Sessional academic, The University of Melbourne

*Vale the Humanitarian Principles*

Matthew Clarke, Alfred Deakin Professor & Head of School, Deakin University

For more than 150 years, the international community’s assistance to those affected by humanitarian events has been guided by four clear and succinct principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. The geneses of these four humanitarian principles lie within Henry Dunant’s account of the violent Battle of Solferino in 1859. The maturing of the humanitarian sector, along with the increasing complexity and intensity of humanitarian events, requires a reconsideration of their relevancy and usefulness. This presentation argues that these four principles are no longer fit-for-purpose to guide and shape the international community’s humanitarian actions. Instead, because of the deepening complexity of modern humanitarian emergencies, four new principles would better direct humanitarian action in the current environment: equity, solidarity, compassion and diversity.

*Routes of humanitarianism: Mapping the lives of practitioners in disaster relief, development, and activism*

Cameron Tero, Chair for Community Development, Murdoch University

This paper draws on current research which is ‘mapping’ the life pathways of a group of Western Australian humanitarian practitioners involved in disaster relief, aid and development, international medical work, and activism. Humanitarian work is such that pragmatic concerns are often the enemy of reflection, so this project has provided a

significant opportunity for practitioners to reflect by ‘mapping’ the narratives of their lives, individually and collectively. Drawing directly on these narratives, the paper examines the way in which certain encounters, circumstances and values can shape practitioners’ vocational trajectories, reflects on experiences of dislocation brought by moving in and out of various personal and professional settings, and discusses the various consequences of working with intractable development challenges. The paper also discusses the way in which the connection between narrative research and mapping has enriched the project, and the potential value of these processes in development education and professional support: providing an important vehicle for individual and collective reflection, fostering an emphasis on the ‘underneath’ of what seems readily apparent, creating visual representations of life trajectories and dislocations, and providing openings for resonance and connection between practitioners.

*From resettled refugees to humanitarian actors: Motivations, modalities and implications of diaspora humanitarianism*

Louise Olliff, Sessional academic, The University of Melbourne

Refugees resettled in Australia frequently establish small voluntary-run organisations to mobilise resources and implement projects assisting displaced people in other parts of the world. Refugee diaspora organisations raise money for schools and health centres, purchase wheelchairs and water pumps, send material aid, facilitate

migration outcomes, and advocate at different levels to draw attention to the plight of ‘their people’. The capacity of former refugees to draw on transnational social networks, contextual knowledge of humanitarian situations and systems, and mobility enabled through resettlement, makes them distinct humanitarian actors. Although not ‘new’ in their actions, there is increasing interest in diaspora organisations as non-traditional humanitarian actors. Based on multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork in Australia, Thailand, Indonesia and Geneva, and interviews with representatives of 26

refugee diaspora organisations formed in Australia, this research explores the muddled lines between ‘those who suffer’ and ‘those who help’ in situations of forced displacement. Understanding refugee diaspora humanitarianism as a distinct form of transnational engagement—one that is shaped by the politics, histories and positionalities of people who have personal experience of ‘being a refugee’—challenges us to consider diverse motivations, modalities and knowledges within humanitarian (and development) practice.

Community Development Practices and Inclusion  
Room – Gunditjmara 1

Moderator: Mary Ann Jackson

*Understanding Sustainable Community Development through Local Approaches toward Waste Management: The Case of Kerala Region, India*

Pinar Temocin, PhD Candidate, Hiroshima University, Japan

*Disability Inclusion in the Built Environment at the Community level ..... How?*

Mary Ann Jackson & Saumya Kaushik, PhD Candidate, Centre for Social Impact, Swinburne University

*Isolated Customary Community Social Empowerment Program in Aceh Province, Indonesia*

Teuku Murdani

*Theorising collective action for sustainable development in Melanesia*

Simon Foale, Jennifer Gabriel, Cathy Hair, Michael Wood

*Understanding Sustainable Community Development through Local Approaches toward Waste Management: The Case of Kerala Region, India*

Pinar Temocin, PhD Candidate, Hiroshima University, Japan

The research project is based on the understanding of sustainable development through effective public engagement and inclusion. It focuses on common actions toward the ‘waste problem’ in Kerala, India. Kerala has been considered one of the most developed regions in India with its high education and literacy rate. And yet, local communities in this region are very sensitive about environmental issues with a particular concern on waste management. This research analyzes the waste independency through local-consensus centered approaches. It also

identifies the motivation of local communities who created voluntary waste management initiatives and formed cooperation with the stakeholders, eco-conscious companies, recycling services, and local government. It’s been found out that a strong sense of ‘environmentalism’ and ‘community’ and awareness about the environmental crisis are the main drivers for being active on waste management and disposal on the local level. The project aims to encourage communities to achieve better management practices and eco-citizenship.

This research project provided by Taoyaka Global Leadership Program of Hiroshima University is in line with the DSAA Inaugural Conference to understand developmental dynamics in progressive regions.



## *Disability Inclusion in the Built Environment at the Community level ..... How?*

Mary Ann Jackson & Saumya Kaushik,  
PhD Candidate, Centre for Social Impact,  
Swinburne University

Australia, under the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), is required to support other member states in implementing development programs that are 'inclusive of and accessible to' people with disability. The latest UN CRPD Accessibility Report (July 2019) concludes that lack of accessibility is a fundamental barrier to people with disabilities' participation in society and development which must be urgently addressed to satisfy CRPD and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals obligations.

The Australian government's 'Development for All' (DfA) 2015-2020 endorses disability inclusive development, particularly in the Pacific and South East Asia. However, the document fails to foreground the importance of an enabling built environment for effective community inclusion of people with disability. Furthermore, adopting a 'reasonable accommodation' approach constrains achieving accessibility at community level. DfA's supporting document 'Accessible Design Guidelines' 2009-2014 espouses Universal Design but lacks accessibility initiatives at community level. Neither document references the New Urban Agenda's commitments of 'access to equal opportunities and face no discrimination' and 'promote safe, accessible and green public spaces'. The next edition of the DfA should redress these shortcomings. Until the importance of an accessible built environment at community level is recognised, CRPD and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals will not be achieved.

## *Isolated Customary Community Social Empowerment Program in Aceh Province, Indonesia*

Teuku Murdani

Komunitas Adat Terpencil (Isolated Customary Community) are indigenous communities who live in isolated area in Indonesia. Indonesia Social Minister designed Isolated Customary Community Program in 1999 to improve both their social life as well

as economic condition. The target of the program as stipulated in Indonesian national development planning is to improve the prosperity of every Indonesian citizen. Aceh is one of program targeted areas because of its indigenous communities and small tribal communities in isolated areas who are isolated from the rest of the communities and lack access to goods and services. This article analyses the preparation phase of social community empowerment aiming to understand social condition as well as the community aspirations on how they want to improve their socio-economic condition, and whether these aspirations are aligned with the initial stages of the empowerment program. The purpose of the research is to analyse the current format of social empowerment and the kinds of assistances that the government provides. Field data was collected in Sikundo village, West Aceh, Aceh, Indonesia. The result of field study conclude that all local community members are eager to participate in economic activities, and be empowered however their basic needs are not met due to a number of factors including poor housing; lack of education and health services; financial support; lack of capacity and environmental conditions.

## *Theorising collective action for sustainable development in Melanesia*

Simon Foale, Jennifer Gabriel, Cathy Hair,  
Michael Wood

The neoliberal-flavoured 'systems thinking' that continues to permeate project design and development policy among large agencies with a global-scale mandate, including nature conservation organisations, seems to be chronically problematised by social data from the Melanesian cultural region, particularly Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. In this paper we draw on evidence from two studies spanning agriculture, forestry, tourism and coastal fisheries sectors, to further explore the extent to which systems thinking fails to provide a useful frame for understanding collective action for achieving sustainable economic and human development through commoditisation of communally-owned primary resources. We include a critical examination of the late Lyn Ostrom's Common Property Theory, which remains highly influential. We note that some sectors (e.g. small-holder commodity

agriculture including coffee, cocoa and fresh vegetables) appear to be far more amenable to harmonious and sustainable production and fair benefit distribution than others (forestry, tourism, and high value commodity fisheries including sea cucumbers). We reflect on the interesting roles of some indigenous post-

colonial religious movements in galvanising collective market engagement beyond the scale of clan or 'community', and look at the role of patriarchy in (mostly) subverting attempts at sustainable collective resource use and egalitarian benefit distribution.

## **Economics, Aid Allocation, Well-being Room – Gunditjmara 2**

Moderator: Mark McGillivray

### *Changing Times, Changing Priorities: Determinants of the Geographic Allocation of Australian Bilateral Aid, 1960 to 2015*

Mark McGillivray, Professor, Deakin University  
Salma Ahmed, Research Fellow, Deakin University  
David Lowe, Professor, Deakin University

### *Education Inequality and Subjective Wellbeing: Evidence from China*

Quanda Zhang (Samuel), Research Fellow, Deakin University  
Sefa Awaworyi Churchill, Senior Research Fellow, RMIT University

### *Is Development Economics Insular?*

Sophie Mitra, Michael Palmer & Vu Anh Vuong

### *The Effect Happiness on Innovation – A Cross-Country Analysis*

David Fleming-Muñoz & Stephan Goetz, CSIRO NERCRD and Penn State University

### *Changing Times, Changing Priorities: Determinants of the Geographic Allocation of Australian Bilateral Aid, 1960 to 2015*

Mark McGillivray, Professor, Deakin University  
Salma Ahmed, Research Fellow, Deakin University  
David Lowe, Professor, Deakin University

This paper provides a nuanced econometric analysis of the geographic allocation of Australian bilateral development aid since 1960. Unlike almost all other aid donors, Australia's geographic location and resource endowments dictate that that vast majority of its most important foreign policy interests are with developing countries. Both panel and single year cross-section and limited dependent variable econometric modelling techniques are used. The paper points to changing priorities and how they have influenced the geographic allocation of Australian bilateral aid over time. It finds that special bilateral and regional relationships have played an important role in the allocation of Australia's bilateral development aid, but that so too have generic humanitarian, commercial and a range of foreign policy interests. That humanitarian

and other determinants are important points to what might be described as a happy co-existence in the pursuit of have been thought of as competing or incompatible motives.

### *Education Inequality and Subjective Wellbeing: Evidence from China*

Quanda Zhang (Samuel), Research Fellow, Deakin University  
Sefa Awaworyi Churchill, Senior Research Fellow, RMIT University

Using four waves of longitudinal data from the China Family Panel Studies (CFPS), we examine the effects of institutionalized education inequality, measured by the education gap generated by *Hukou* (household registration system) status in China, on subjective wellbeing. We find that high levels of education inequality are associated with lower levels of subjective wellbeing, measured by life satisfaction. This general conclusion is robust to a number of sensitivity checks including alternative ways of measuring subjective wellbeing

and education inequality and alternative estimation techniques. We also find that the effects of education inequality on subjective wellbeing is heterogeneous across different groups. It is stronger for male compared to female, urban *Hukou* residents compared to non-urban *Hukou* residents, and urban residents compared to rural residents. Our findings with respect to the role of the *Hukou* system in promoting education inequality, and its associated effects on subjective wellbeing, provide evidence in support of further dismantling of institutional structures, such as the *Hukou* system, which is often referred to as a structure that promotes segregation and discrimination.

#### *Is Development Economics Insular?*

Sophie Mitra, Michael Palmer & Vu Anh Vuong

Does academic development economic research draw upon the work of other disciplines in development research? Using *Web of Science* citation data for the period 1990-2018, this paper examines citation patterns in the top journals between development economics and other disciplines with a focus on development studies as an interdisciplinary field of study of development. We observe an increasing trend in the extent of citations in the top-5 development economics journals to the top-5 development studies journals, however the increase is modest and recent. The level and growth of citations to development economics from development studies is considerably higher yet is mitigated when weighted by the total number of citations. Our findings point to development economics as showing signs of being more outward looking and that its influence in the field of development is growing. This phenomena is largely explained through growing number of economists publishing in top-tier development studies journals as a result of increasing competition in top-tier development economics journals.

#### *The Effect Happiness on Innovation – A Cross-Country Analysis*

David Fleming-Muñoz & Stephan Goetz,  
CSIRO NERCRD and Penn State University

Happiness has been a topic of wide interests and research in recent years. As an alternative of standard monetary metrics, happiness has been proposed by a number of authors as an alternative indicator to measure economic progress and wellbeing across countries and regions of the world. Hence, it is commonly argued that is more important for citizens to be happy than to possess material belonging or earn higher incomes. However, the debate has generally centered on understanding happiness as a consequence of development or as a proxy for how well societies are doing. Few insights exist, though, on the causality from happiness toward economic development, which we hypothesize and explore can be given through the support it can bring to more creative or innovate societies. This paper aim to answer ‘Does exist a connection between happiness and creativity or innovation across countries?’ To achieve this we explore country level data for different years and regions finding a strong association between happiness and creativity. To explore more our results we focus on two cases and discuss the mechanism through which happier societies can increase their innovation systems and consequently their economic development.

### **Economics, Emotions and Power Room – Wadawurrung 1**

Moderator: Jonathan Kuttainen

*Digital Financial Scamming: Mobile Money Fraud in Uganda*  
Jonathan Kuttainen, PhD Candidate, James Cook University

*Emotions and Power: Two case studies of responses to land exclusions in two Bunong villages of Mondulkiri province, Cambodia*  
Sochanny Hak

*Digital Financial Scamming: Mobile Money Fraud in Uganda*

Jonathan Kuttainen, PhD Candidate, James Cook University

Mobile money is an innovative form of digital financial commerce in Sub-Saharan Africa. Since its heralded and successful implementation in Kenya a decade ago, this Digital Financial Service (DFS) has been one of the most rapidly diffused financial technology transfers across the region. Its potential for financial inclusion and poverty alleviation is akin to the microfinance revolution of the previous decade and recognized by multi-lateral global institutions as its likely successor as the latest anti-poverty solution. Despite views that mobile money is better than cash, offering improved financial protection and security for users, new evidence suggests mobile money fraud is an emerging yet under acknowledged problem in Uganda.

Drawing on contemporary research on moral economies of corruption and fraud in Africa, this paper considers the activity of fraud perpetuated over mobile money services in a regional setting of west Uganda. Fraudsters are adept at exploiting unsuspecting users of mobile money services. Based on in-depth interviews with mobile money users and local police, this research generates new insights about the gaps in the claimed security and efficacy of the technology as a tool for safe and inclusive economic development.

*Emotions and Power: Two case studies of responses to land exclusions in two Bunong villages of Mondulkiri province, Cambodia*

Sochanny Hak

Land exclusions in Cambodia are caused by economic land concessions, forest conservation programs, and land title registration. These exclusions are facilitated by different actors, including the government, national and international private companies, and local and international NGOs. Each diminishes indigenous Bunong households' access to forest and land resources in diverse and complex ways. Based on in-depth interviews and focus group discussions conducted in 2012 and 2018, this paper discusses Bunong households' responses to land exclusions in Srae Preah commune, Mondulkiri province where two different outcomes emerged - one apparently successful, the other not so. This paper discusses the ways in which different actors exercise power over the Bunong and in particular their resistance to land exclusion. The discussion suggests that the success or failure of collective action is related to the kind of compensation offered (the possibility of compensation paid in land or in money) and the kind of land exclusion. The paper argues that the politics of identity, including gendered norms, and emotions are important to understand in the dynamics of social movements against land grabbing.



## Peace & Conflict 3 Room – Wadawurrung 2

Moderator: Lesley Pruitt

*Conflict, Resistance, and Gender Representations in Acehnese Contemporary Fictions*  
Mhd. Rasid Ritonga, PhD Candidate, University of Canberra

*Dancing through the Dissonance?: Youth, Creative Movement, & Peace*  
Lesley Pruitt & Erica Rose Jeffrey

*Intersection of language, literacy and development in post conflict states A Case Study of Timor-Leste adult literacy/recurrent education programs*  
Tahmina Rashid, Associate Professor, University of Canberra

*Conflict, Resistance, and Gender Representations in Acehnese Contemporary Fictions*

Mhd. Rasid Ritonga, PhD Candidate, University of Canberra

Aceh, Indonesia, has undergone two tragic events; the 75 years of conflict between the Acehnese people and the Indonesian government causing severe trauma and casualties; and 2004 tsunami that caused enormous destruction and thousands of deaths. The Memorandum of Understanding signed between Aceh and the Indonesian government have brought an end to the political conflict, but the trauma would take longer to heal. Acehnese writers have written about extensive repression, exploitation, domination and abuses of human rights. These two major events have emerged very prominently in recent fictions written by the Acehnese writers. This article explores the representation of the people's lived experience during the chaotic and violent situations; the resistance of the colonised against the coloniser; and the representation of gender as depicted in 10 Acehnese contemporary fictions selected from fiction written between 2005 – 2018. The study will use the concept of postcoloniality of Edward Said and Homi Bhabha to investigate the conflict and resistance, while Gayatri Spivak and Chandra Telpade Mohanty's work is used to guide the exploration of the gender representation in the select fiction. This article is based on the textual analysis of chosen fiction using NVivo and is part of a larger project in progress.

*Dancing through the Dissonance?: Youth, Creative Movement, & Peace*

Lesley Pruitt & Erica Rose Jeffrey

Recent years have seen a growing interest in youth, peace, and security in policy and in scholarship. After all, young people are undoubtedly key stakeholders in peace and security efforts; they participate in and are affected by conflict in a number of diverse ways. Likewise, work engaging directly with young people involved in peacebuilding in diverse contexts is critical to helping improve our understandings of the various ways youth may experience violence and work for peace. To that end, this paper reports on research involving participant observation and semi-structured interviews with peer leaders working in an NGO using dance and creative movement to support youth peacebuilding in Colombia, the Philippines, and the US. By examining group dance exchange activities, this paper considers what dance can tell us about local and/or global approaches to peacebuilding, including how the two are defined, interact, or may co-constitute one another. It also examines the political ramifications of this co-creation and/or interchange.

*Intersection of language, literacy and development in post conflict states A Case Study of Timor-Leste adult literacy/recurrent education programs*

Tahmina Rashid, Associate Professor, University of Canberra

Timor-Leste is a young state coming out of the experiences of colonisation, and taking initiatives to develop the state and society.

Years of résistance against colonialism had serious impact on literacy rate hence various programmes have been initiated by the successive governments; international NGOs and donor agencies. This paper explores the non-formal literacy programs in Timor-Leste, particularly paying attention to “Second Chance Education Project” (SCEP) project implemented by the Ministry of education and funded by the World Bank and UNESCO. Second Chance Education is an accelerated learning model that helps, out of school youth and adults catch up in literacy and numeracy integrating academic and life skills through tailored support. This paper examines the

impact of SCEP in Timor-Leste through community learning centres established in 8 municipalities. The paper employed a mix methodology approach, examining public policies and literature on adult learning in TL, and conducted field research in Dili to examine the views of various stakeholders to assess the impact and sustainability of the programmes. The paper concludes that Programme and policy level structural limitations hinder efforts to eradicate illiteracy among adult learners, this needs to be addressed to achieve the goals set in the national education plans.

## South Asia - Economic & Political Development Room – Gunditjmara 1

Moderator: Angela Croslin

*OVOP and Non-Farm Rural Development – A case study of Pakistan*  
Seemab Khalid, PhD Candidate, University of Canberra

*Youth, Politics and Political Violence: Changing Characteristics and Relationships in the Political Development Processes in Nepal*  
Ramesh Shrestha, PhD Candidate, University of New England

*Explore non banking financing options as alternative finance for Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) in Sri Lanka*  
Angela Croslin, PhD candidate, RMIT University

*OVOP and Non-Farm Rural Development – A case study of Pakistan*

Seemab Khalid, PhD Candidate, University of Canberra

OVOP activities are significant trigger to rural development as suggested by literature at large. Through community engagement, small business development, and emphasising use of natural resources or locally sourced materials, OVOP tends to bring in development opportunities which are economic as well as non-economic in nature. Historically, OVOP themed rural development has successfully taken the dependency away from agriculture and has generated alternate development opportunities. OVOP Pakistan is contributing significantly in this area focusing solely on non-farm rural development. This paper discusses the role of OVOP Pakistan (AHAN) in rural development through capacity building, community engagement and sustainability of rural livelihoods.

This paper identifies the villages of Punjab, Pakistan where AHAN has undertaken projects to develop new enterprise or to support existing set ups through capacity building. The focus of this development intervention is to increase skilled artisans, enhance rural-urban ties, improve reachability and create livelihood opportunities. The paper highlights a women exclusive project undertaken by AHAN ‘Skills for Market 2014-2015’ in which more than 800 women from 38 villages in Punjab were successfully trained in handloom embroidery skills. Not only the women were trained in embroidery skills, they were also given literacy classes to learn basic mathematics and language skills to operate their businesses. The project overall was a great success in terms of 50% of these women buying their own handlooms to start entrepreneurial activities and rest were offered jobs by existing businesses. Mapped over 3 years, more than 50 percent of trained women are still operating their businesses and have significant orders available to work on.

*Youth, Politics and Political Violence: Changing Characteristics and Relationships in the Political Development Processes in Nepal*

Ramesh Shrestha, PhD Candidate, University of New England

The evidence points to a reality that youth managed violence is an integral element of the political upheavals in Nepal. Obviously, political parties know the enormous strength that youth have at their disposal. The primary data identified caste-based discrimination, inequalities and marginalization as push factors, while political ideology, the recruitment policies of political parties, a rise in ethno-identity political activities - along with a dividend seeking political culture were identified as pull factors. The push and pull factors provide an apparatus that enables us to gauge the magnitude of youth engagement in political violence in Nepal. Political parties seem uninterested in being accountable to the people endangering hope for development and prosperity thus undermining the norms of a democratic society. Realizing 'politics is not a profit making industry' for every member in society including political leaders is a step towards discouraging political chaos, dishonesty, youth violence and exploitation of state resources.

*Explore non banking financing options as alternative finance for Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) in Sri Lanka*

Angela Croslin, PhD candidate, RMIT University

Sri Lanka's national framework for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) development identified, SMEs are the backbone of Sri Lanka, as it accounts for more than 75% of the total number of enterprises, provides 45% of the GDP despite the greater growth obstacle they face in terms of accessing finance (Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Sri Lanka, 2017). The main sources of finance are banking and non-bank financing. There are many studies in the context of Sri Lankan SMEs exploring the role of banking financing while there are very limited studies on non-banking financing as an alternative means of financing.

It is necessary for SMEs to reach broader range of financing instruments rather than limiting to banking finance. As accessing banking finance tends to be a crucial factor for SMEs to continue playing their role in investment, growth, innovation and employment a diversified set of options is needed to support their long term investments and to reduce vulnerability. Non-banking financing options for SMEs are an alternative approach to fill the financing requirement. This research aims to analyse constraints of SMEs accessing finance and it also explores the non-bank financing options in Sri Lanka. Using purposeful sampling method, 20 participants were selected among small and medium size enterprises owners from Western province in Sri Lanka. The participants are identified adhering to the national definition of SME which employ up to 300 employees and have an annual turnover of not exceeding Rs. 750 million (AUD 6 million) and involved in an online survey.

The research expected to draw analyses and recommendations based on the findings from the survey by analysing the view of the participants on general opinion of SME support available, type of required finance needs, preference to access non-bank financing options, and limitation to access alternative financing options.

**Income Generation & Economic Empowerment Room – Gunditjmarra 2**

Moderator: Dolly Kikon

*Empowerment of the economically active people with disabilities: Mapping the social, cultural and economic barriers*

Debashis Sarker, PhD Candidate, University of Queensland

*Music as an income Generating Opportunity in Nagaland*

Dolly Kikon, Senior Lecturer, The University of Melbourne

*Small business in the face of disasters: understanding strategies and barriers to building resilience*

Sivendra Michael, PhD Candidate, University of Auckland

*Empowerment of the economically active people with disabilities: Mapping the social, cultural and economic barriers*

Debashis Sarker, PhD Candidate, University of Queensland

People with disabilities are discriminated and oppressed around the globe. In many cases, people with disabilities are treated not as real people (Albert, 2006). They cannot access to social networks, educational facilities, or legal rights (DFID, 2000; WHO, 2011). They have very limited access to information and the vast majority live with a lower quality of life (WHO, 2011). Many studies are conducted in many developing countries on the lived experiences of people with disabilities but very little is known about social, economic and cultural aspects of people with disabilities in Bangladesh. The mapping out exercise includes among other this, the social, cultural and economic conditions in which the people with disabilities live and operate in Bangladesh; perceptions of the community and those of the families of people with disabilities; and views of the key stakeholders that deal with people with disabilities in Bangladesh. This study is a qualitative case study (Yin, 2015) based on semi-structured interviews that included 35 economically active people with disabilities and 10 policy level/microfinance services stakeholders. This study finds that economically active people with disabilities those who are poor face substantial devaluation in the society, barriers to access to income-earning opportunities, basic services, and employment that impedes their social and economic empowerment. Females with disabilities are most vulnerable and disempowered. However, in recent times and thanks to several legislative, advocacy and project interventions things have started

to improve a little, albeit slowly. This paper suggests that in order to empower the people with disability both economically and socially multiple interventions are needed. Government should act appropriately to empower people with disabilities. National level awareness program initiation, ensuring access to all available services, gender focused programs development, creating opportunities, minimizing digital discrimination are some of the key areas that need to be considered for the empowerment of the people with disabilities. Economic empowerment would eventually contribute to social, cultural and political empowerment of people with disability in Bangladesh.

*Music as an income Generating Opportunity in Nagaland*

Dolly Kikon, Senior Lecturer, The University of Melbourne

As the first state in India to recognize music as an industry, the government of Nagaland has launched development programs to boost the creative economy. In 2019, Nagaland ranked as the state with the highest number of unemployed persons in India. It also featured as the state with the highest number of school drops in the country. In this paper, I draw from my work on the music industry in the state and its understanding about development, livelihood, and economic upliftment. Given the history of militarization and armed conflict in Nagaland, I highlight the emergence of the creative economy – packaging music as an employment opportunity – and engage with the state's project to adopt music and brand it as an industry. In this presentation, I reflect how these ongoing developments might draw



our attention towards emerging notions of development, economy, and livelihood in post conflict societies.

*Small business in the face of disasters: understanding strategies and barriers to building resilience*

Sivendra Michael, PhD Candidate, University of Auckland

Many development practitioners and researchers refer to the notion of building resilience in response to increasing occurrences and severity of natural hazards. However, literature on how subgroups like micro and small businesses (MSBs) have built resilience towards disasters events remains scant, particularly within the Pacific context. This paper draws on field studies conducted with MSBs in the Ba Province, Fiji, a region that has experienced over 130

recorded disasters over the last two decades. The findings show how MSBs have utilised a combination of strategies to adapt to, cope with and recover from disaster events. It is conventionally believed that MSBs are most vulnerable to disaster events due to their business characteristics alongside resource and adaptive capacity constraints. By contrast, drawing on the theories of complex adaptive systems and social capital, our results indicate that restrictive institutional policies coupled with disaster politics significantly affect MSBs' ability to enhance their resilience levels. In addition, the study draws attention to patterns of social capital, use of social media, and reliance on local knowledge as effective response and recovery strategies. Such strategies prompt a coping culture amongst the small business community, which is largely reflected through shared narratives of disaster impacts over time.



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