



Australian  
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## 2014 PACIFIC PERSPECTIVES CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

16-19 JUNE 2014

State, Society and Governance in  
Melanesia Program  
School of International, Political  
and Strategic Studies

Development Policy Centre  
Crawford School of Public Policy

College of  
**Asia and the Pacific**

## 2014 Pacific Update

**Time:** 9am - 5pm, Monday 16 June and Tuesday 17 June 2014  
**Venue:** Molonglo Theatre, Level 2, JG Crawford Building 132, Lennox Crossing, ANU

The 2014 Pacific Update provides a forum for the discussion of the latest economic, social and political developments in the region. The 2014 Pacific Update is presented by the Development Policy Centre at Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University, and is supported by the Asian Development Bank's Pacific Economic Management Technical Assistance Project and *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies*.

Twitter: #PacUpdate

## 2014 State of the Pacific Conference

**Time:** 9am - 5pm, Wednesday 18 June and Thursday 19 June, 2014  
**Venue:** Coombs Lecture Theatre, HC Coombs Building 9, ANU Hedley Bull Centre, Building 130, Garran Road, ANU

The State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program presents the 2014 State of the Pacific Conference on 18-19 June 2014. A showcase for research on the Pacific region, the conference convenes academics, policy makers, business leaders, civil society representatives and the media to discuss the important nexus between research and policy.

### Wi-Fi Access

Account: ANU Access  
User name: pacificuser  
Password: pacific2014

Twitter: #SOTP14

# Pacific Update 2014

Monday 16 June and Tuesday 17 June 8.30am – 5pm

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Hosted by the Development Policy Centre at Crawford School of Public Policy

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Molonglo Theatre\*, Crawford School Building (Building 132), Lennox Crossing, ANU

\*All sessions will be held in the Molonglo Theatre, unless otherwise specified in the program.

## DAY ONE - MONDAY 16 JUNE 2014

8.30 am *Registration*

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8.50 am **Opening session**  
Chair: Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre

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9.00 am **Opening keynote address: in search of a Pacific model of growth**  
**Yongzheng Yang**  
Resident Representative for Pacific Island Countries, International Monetary Fund

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9.30 am **Regional economic update**  
**Christopher Edmonds**  
Senior Economist, Pacific Department, Asian Development Bank

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10.00 am **Q&A for first two speakers**

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10.20 am *Morning tea*

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10.40 am **Large and resource rich economies: managing the resource curse for inclusive growth**  
Chair: Dulciana Somare-Brash, Associate Director, Pacific Institute of Public Policy

**Papua New Guinea**  
**Stephen Howes**  
Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

**Timor Leste**  
**Helder Lopes**  
Coordinator and Advisor, National Directorate for Economic Policy, Ministry of Finance, Timor Leste

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11.45 am *Lunch*

# Pacific Update 2014

## DAY ONE CONTINUED

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12.45 pm

### **Fiji: waking the Pacific's sleeping giant**

Chair: Kate Logan, Assistant Secretary, Papua New Guinea and Fiji Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

#### **Filimone Waqabaca**

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Fiji [tbc]

#### **Satish Chand**

Professor, University of New South Wales

#### **Dibyendu Maiti**

Associate Professor, University of South Pacific

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2.15 pm

### **Relatively diversified economies: prospects for inclusive growth**

Chair: Ana Fakaola-'I-Fanga Tu'akoi Lemani, Chief Accountant, Tongan Ministry of Finance

#### **Samoa**

##### **Benjamin Pereira**

Assistant Governor (Monetary Stability Group), Central Bank of Samoa

#### **Tonga**

##### **Sione Ngongo Kioa**

Governor, National Reserve Bank of Tonga

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3.00 pm

*Afternoon tea*

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3.20 pm

### **Aid dependent economies: prospects in the region's smaller states**

Chair: Sangaalofa Clark, Policy Development Advisor, PNA Office

#### **Kiribati**

##### **Atanteora Beiatou**

Director's Advisor, Asian Development Bank (Former Secretary of Finance, Kiribati)

#### **Small island states in the North Pacific**

##### **Gerard Finin**

Co-Director, Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), East West Center, Hawaii

#### **Nauru**

##### **Roland Kun**

Member of Parliament, Nauru (Former Minister of Finance, Nauru)

#### **Tuvalu**

##### **Letasi Iulai**

Advisor to Executive Director, The World Bank (Former Ministry of Finance, Tuvalu)

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5.00 pm

*Close and drinks at Molonglo Foyer*

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5.30 pm

### **Buk Bilong Pikinini video and Q&A with BbP founder, Anne-Sophie Herman**

Watch the engaging and moving video on the work of Buk Bilong Pikinini, which runs libraries in PNG to promote literacy.

# Pacific Update 2014

DAY TWO - TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2014

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8.30 am *Registration*

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9.00 am **Parallel session 1a: Regionalism - Responding to the Pacific Plan Review**

Chair: Matthew Dornan, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre

***Do many hands make light work? An assessment of pooled service delivery in the Pacific islands region***

**Tess Newton Cain**

Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre and Non-Resident Fellow, Lowy Institute for International Policy

***The Pacific Plan Review and the Forum Secretariat***

**Seini O'Connor**

Pacific Plan Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

***Reflections on regionalism and the role of the private sector***

**Epa Tuioti**

Former Vice Chair, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation, Executive Council Member, Samoa National Private Sector Organisation (Former Financial Secretary to Government of Samoa)

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9.00 am **Parallel session 1b: Skills and employment in the Pacific**

Barton Theatre

Chair: Bob Warner, Director of Pacific Research Partnerships, Crawford School, The Australian National University

***Skills assessments in the Pacific***

**Richard Curtain**

Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre

***'Well-being from work in Pacific islands countries' report***

**Tobias Haque**

Economist, The World Bank

***Realising Pacific job needs in the 21st Century***

**Andrew Parker**

Principal Social Sector Economist, Asian Development Bank

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10.20 am *Morning tea*

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10.40 am **Parallel session 2a: The business/investment environment**

Chair: Margaret Callan, Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre

***Reform and private sector development in the Pacific***

**Paul Holden**

Lead Economist, Private Sector Development Initiative, Asian Development Bank

***The reality of trade and investment in the Pacific islands***

**Tim Martin**

Executive Manager, Investment and Tourism, Pacific Islands Trade and Invest

***Infrastructure development and the private sector***

**Sanjivi Rajasingham**

Director, Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility

# Pacific Update 2014

## DAY TWO CONTINUED

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10.40 am  
Barton Theatre

### **Parallel session 2b: Labour mobility**

Chair: Jenny Hayward-Jones, Director, Myer Foundation Melanesia Programme, Lowy Institute for International Policy

#### ***New research on Australia's seasonal worker program***

**Jesse Doyle**

The World Bank

#### ***Migration in Micronesia***

**Michael Levin**

Adjunct Fellow, East-West Center

#### ***Pacific Islander migrants in Australian census data***

**Jonathan Pryke**

Development Policy Centre

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12.00 pm

*Lunch*

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1.00 pm

### **Keynote address: Reflections on constraints to growth in the Pacific**

Chair: Tom Kompas, Director, Crawford School, The Australian National University

**Ron Duncan**

Emeritus Professor, Crawford School, The Australian National University

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2.00 pm

### **Tuna fisheries management**

Chair: Quentin Grafton, Executive Director, Australian National Institute of Public Policy (ANIPP); Chairholder, UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance, Crawford School, The Australian National University

#### ***Tuna fisheries in the Pacific***

**Glenn Hurry**

Executive Director, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

#### ***The vessel day scheme***

**Les Clark**

Fisheries Specialist

**Saangalofa Clark**

Policy Development Advisor, PNA Office

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3.00 pm

*Afternoon tea*

# Pacific Update 2014

## DAY TWO CONTINUED

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3.20 pm

### **Managing aid: Pacific island countries and the changing dynamics of development assistance**

Chair: Siosuia Utoikamanu, Director, Pacific Islands Centre for Public Administration, University of the South Pacific

#### *Chinese development assistance in the Pacific*

**Matthew Dornan**

Development Policy Centre

#### *Aid for trade and the Pacific*

**Wesley Morgan**

University of Melbourne

#### *Compact trust funds in Micronesia*

**Michael Wulfsohn**

Development Policy Centre

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4.40 pm

### **Closing remarks**

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6.30 pm

### **2014 Pacific Update / 2014 State of the Pacific conference cocktail reception and dinner – by invitation only**

Dinner address: James Batley, Former Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Venue: Common Room and Great Hall, University House, ANU.

Performance by Pasifika Australia dance group

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The 2014 Pacific Update is supported by the Asian Development Bank's Pacific Economic Management Technical Assistance Project and *Asia and Pacific Policy Studies*—the flagship journal of Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University.



**Australian Government**

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

**Pacific Economic Management Technical Assistance**

# 2014 State of the Pacific conference

Wednesday 18 June and Thursday 19 June

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Hosted by the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program at the School of International, Political and Strategic Studies, ANU

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## TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2014

5.30 pm

**Book launch**

*Politics, development and security in Oceania* - Edited by David Hegarty and Darrell Tryon

Seminar Room 1.04 – Coombs Extension Building, Fellows Rd, ANU

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6.30 pm

**2014 Pacific Update / 2014 State of the Pacific conference cocktail reception and dinner – by invitation only**

Dinner address: James Batley, Former Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Venue: Common Room and Great Hall, University House, ANU.

Performance by Pasifika Australia dance group

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## DAY ONE - WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2014

7.30 am

*Registration and welcome tea and coffee*

*The Atrium, Hedley Bull Centre*

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8.30 am

Coombs lecture theatre

**Conference Opening Panel**

Chair: Professor Andrew Walker, Acting Dean ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

**Acknowledgement of country**

**Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre, ANU**

**Welcome**

**Professor Ian Young AO**

Vice-Chancellor, the Australian National University

**Nicole Haley**

Associate Professor and Convenor, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program

**Opening address**

**Hon Julie Bishop MP**

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Keynote address**

**Virisila Buadromo**

Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

**Amanda Donigi**

Founder and Editor, *Stella Magazine*

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10.45 am

*Morning tea – The Atrium, Hedley Bull Centre*



# 2014 State of the Pacific conference

## DAY ONE - WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2014

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11.30 am  
Coombs  
lecture theatre

### **Political development stream | Elections in Fiji 2014** (session abstract at rear)

Chair: Professor Stewart Firth, ANU

#### **Jone Baledrokadroka**

Visitor, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

#### **Brij Lal**

Professor, Culture, History and Languages, ANU

#### **Jon Fraenkel**

Professor, School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Affairs, Victoria University of Wellington

#### **Romitesh Kant**

Teaching Assistant, School of Government, Development and International Affairs, University of the South Pacific

#### **Patrick Vakaoti**

Lecturer, University of Otago

#### **Virisila Buadromo**

Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement

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11.30 am  
Hedley Bull  
lecture theatre 1

### **Experiments in development stream | New forms of local governance and justice**

(session abstract at rear)

Chair: Thiago Oppermann, ANU

#### **Debra McDougall**

Associate Professor, Anthropology and Sociology, University of Western Australia

#### **Thiago Oppermann**

Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

#### **Michael Goddard**

Honorary Associate, Department of Anthropology, Macquarie University

#### **Matthew Allen**

Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

#### **Sinclair Dinnen**

Senior Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

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1.00 pm

*Lunch – The Atrium, Hedley Bull Centre*

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2.00 pm  
Coombs  
lecture theatre

### **Political development stream | Political settlements- evaluating a new concept in development thinking** (session abstract at rear)

Chair: Sinclair Dinnen, ANU

#### **Sue Ingram**

PhD candidate, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

#### **David Craig**

Research Associate Professor, Preventative and Social Medicine, University of Otago

#### **Doug Porter**

Adjunct Professor, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU, World Bank

#### **Julien Barbara**

Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia/Centre for Democratic Institutions, ANU

#### **Graham Teskey**

Principle Sector Specialist, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## 2014 State of the Pacific conference

### DAY ONE CONTINUED

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2.00 pm  
Hedley Bull  
lecture theatre 1

**Experiments in development stream | Experiments in markets and services** (session abstract at rear)  
Chair: Bryant Allen, ANU

**Karen Mapusua**

Coordinating Officer, POETCom - Secretariat of the Pacific Community

**Alberta Vitale**

Associate Director, Women in Business Development, Samoa

**Michelle Rooney**

PhD candidate, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

**Colin Wiltshire**

PhD candidate, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU/PNG PEPE  
Program Manager, Development Policy Centre, ANU

**Jenny Clement**

Manager Country Programs, CARE Australia

**Timothy Sharp**

Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

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3.30 pm      *Afternoon tea – The Atrium, Hedley Bull Centre*

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4.00 pm  
Coombs  
lecture  
theatre

**Joint session**  
**Australia's changing role in the Pacific** (session abstract at rear)  
Chair: Graeme Smith, ANU

**Graeme Smith**

Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

**Nic Maclellan**

Adjunct Fellow, Swinburne University, independent journalist and researcher

**Phillippa Brant**

Research Associate, Lowy Institute for International Policy

**Greg Fry**

Associate Professor, School of Government, Development and International Affairs, University of the South Pacific

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5.30 pm

**End of Day One**  
Informal drinks  
Fellows Bar, University House

# 2014 State of the Pacific conference

## DAY TWO - THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2014

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8.30 am *Registration and welcome tea and coffee*  
*The Atrium, Hedley Bull Centre*

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9.00 am **Political development stream | Land, resources and state formation** (session abstract at rear)  
Coombs Chair: Matthew Allen, ANU  
lecture theatre

**Doug Porter**

Adjunct Professor, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU, World Bank

**Colin Filer**

Associate Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

**Siobhan McDonnell**

PhD candidate, Division of Pacific and Asian History, ANU

**Rebecca Monson**

Lecturer, ANU College of Law

**Anthony Regan**

Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

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9.00 am **Experiments in development stream | Mobile phones and the Internet in Melanesia - Potential and pitfalls** (session abstract at rear)  
Hedley Bull Chair: Sarah Logan, ANU  
lecture theatre 1

**Dan McGarry**

Chief Technologist, Pacific Institute of Public Policy

**Amanda Watson**

Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology Sydney

**Sarah Logan**

Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

**Joseph Kim Suwamaru**

Senior Lecturer, Divine World University

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10.30 am *Morning tea – The Atrium, Hedley Bull Centre*

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11.00 am **Political development stream | Emergent shifts in gender roles** (session abstract at rear)  
Coombs Chair: Ceridwen Spark, ANU  
lecture theatre

**Martha Macintyre**

Associate Professor, Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne

**Stephanie Lusby**

PhD Candidate, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

**Priya Chattier**

Pacific Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

**Ceridwen Spark**

Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

**Jack Taylor**

Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University

**Jenny Munro**

Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

**Mema Motusaga**

PhD candidate, Victoria University

## 2014 State of the Pacific conference

### DAY TWO CONTINUED

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11.00 am  
Hedley Bull  
lecture theatre 1

#### **Experiments in development stream | Pacific communities in Australia: challenges and moving forward** (session abstract at rear)

Chair: Roannie Ng Shiu, ANU

##### **John Hutchinson**

Apprenticeship Mentoring Manager, NRL Welfare and Education

##### **Glenda Stanley**

Principal Cultural Diversity Officer, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, QLD

##### **Inez Fainga'a**

Child and Youth Community Health Service, Brisbane

##### **Rita Seumanutafa Gale**

Research Assistant, The Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne

##### **Tavale Ilalio**

Program Manager, BridgingWorx

##### **Kalisi Bese**

Program Manager, Pasifika Youth Links Service, and Pacific Island Reference Group Member

##### **Nigel Vagana**

Welfare and Education Officer, National Rugby League

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12.30 pm

*Lunch – The Atrium, Hedley Bull Centre*

#### **Film presentation- *Tep Tok: Reading between our lines***

*Seminar Room 3, Hedley Bull Centre*

Director: Julia Mageau-Gray, *Sunameke Productions*

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1.30 pm  
Coombs  
lecture theatre

#### **New directions in research | Women in leadership in the Pacific**

Chair: Stephanie Lusby, ANU

##### ***A failed experiment? Reserved seats for women in the parliament of the autonomous region of Bougainville***

##### **Kerryn Baker**

PhD candidate, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

##### ***Community perceptions of women in leadership (Fiji)***

##### **Kristy Nowland**

Program Manager, Fiji, International Women's Development Agency

##### ***Rights and religion – implications for development in the Pacific***

##### **Bronwyn Fraser**

Manager, Peacebuilding and Livelihoods Programs, Uniting World

##### ***How to explain ethnic and gender employment disparities in New Caledonia?***

##### **Samuel Gorohouna**

Associate Researcher, University of New Caledonia

## 2014 State of the Pacific conference

### DAY TWO CONTINUED

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1.30 pm  
Hedley Bull  
lecture theatre 1

**Political development stream | Elections in the Solomon Islands** (session abstract at rear)  
Chair: Sinclair Dinnen, ANU

**Rexford Kouto**  
Assistant Editor, Hansard, National Parliament of Solomon Islands

**Terence Wood**  
Research Associate, Centre for Democratic Institutions, ANU

**Joe Foukona**  
PhD candidate, Culture, History and Languages, ANU

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1.30 pm  
Hedley Bull  
seminar room 3

**New directions in research | Environment and resources**  
Chair: Anthony Regan, ANU

***Towards a political ecology of REDD in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu***  
**Nicole Gooch**  
PhD candidate, Monash University

***Ocean forests: restorative ocean development***  
**Robert Tulip**  
Acting Director, Resources and Energy Section, DFAT

***Vanua Sauvi: conservation, food security and carbon sinking***  
**Rosiana Lagi**  
Assistant Lecturer, School of Education, University of the South Pacific

***Understanding the role of women in artisanal and small scale mining in Bougainville.***  
**Anita Togolo**  
PhD Candidate, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

**Anthony Regan**  
Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

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2.45 pm      *Afternoon tea – The Atrium, Hedley Bull Centre*

## 2014 State of the Pacific conference

### DAY TWO CONTINUED

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3.15 pm  
Coombs  
lecture theatre

#### **New directions in research | New perspectives on development**

Chair: John Cox, ANU

##### ***The Pacific index***

**Simon Feeny**

Associate Professor, Economics, Finance and Marketing, RMIT University

##### ***Dancing with donors: China's emerging interest in aid cooperation***

**Denghua Zhang**

PhD candidate, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

##### ***Pacific leadership program***

**Michael O'Keefe**

Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences and Communications, La Trobe University

##### ***Mereani Rokotuibau***

Program Manager, Pacific Leadership Program

##### ***Reflections on the RAMSI People's Survey, 2006-2013***

**Christine McMurray**

Adjunct Associate Professor, College of Arts and Social Sciences, ADSRI, ANU

##### ***The political and developmental significance of new and emerging 'middle classes' in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.***

**Julien Barbara**

Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, Centre for Democratic Institutions, ANU

##### ***John Cox***

Research Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

##### ***Michael Leach***

Associate Professor, School of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, Swinburne University of Technology

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3.15 pm  
Hedley Bull  
lecture theatre 1

#### **New directions in research | Markets and mobility**

Chair: Timothy Sharp, ANU

##### ***The implications of family, gender and cultural factors on women smallholders' agricultural and business practices in two diverse regions of Papua New Guinea***

**Katja Mikhailovich**

Associate Professor, Australian Institute for Sustainable Communities, University of Canberra

##### ***Women's savings clubs: developing, implementing and learning from the Tugeda Tude fo Tumoro model***

**Heather Brown**

Director of Programs, International Women's Development Agency

##### ***Introducing a culture-centred mode of communication for HIV/AIDS: the case study of Papua-Indonesia***

**Meylani Yo**

PhD candidate, School of Communication and Creative Arts, Deakin University

##### ***Seasonal worker programs as a model for development: a role for employers?***

**Luke Craven**

PhD candidate, Government and International Relations, University of Sydney, Research Assistant, Sydney Environment Institute

##### ***'Do no harm': understanding the relationship between women's economic empowerment and violence against women in Melanesia***

**Jo Crawford**

Research and Policy Advisor, International Women's Development Agency

## 2014 State of the Pacific conference

### DAY TWO CONTINUED

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3.15 pm  
Hedley Bull  
lecture theatre 3

#### **New directions in research | Security and local governance**

Chair: Thiago Oppermann, ANU

##### ***Illicit small arms in the Pacific: Cause for concern?***

**Stephanie Koorey**

Visiting Fellow, School of Business, UNSW/ADFA

##### ***Avoiding intervention: prospects for sub-crisis conflict prevention***

**Karl Claxton**

Analyst, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

##### ***Urban youth in Papua New Guinea: trends, characteristics and challenges for productive participation***

**Peter Kanaparo**

School of Business Administration, University of Papua New Guinea

##### ***Ensuring public access to the shore in South Pacific cities: the case of Auckland, Noumea and Port Vila***

**Olivier Hoffer**

Associate Lecturer, Centre des Nouvelles Etudes sur le Pacifique, University of New Caledonia

##### ***Local governance across Samoan villages: participation of women***

**Hobert Sasa**

Lecturer, National University of Samoa

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4.30 pm  
Coombs  
lecture theatre

#### **Closing remarks and discussion**

Chair: Sinclair Dinnen, ANU

**Debra McDougall**

Associate Professor, Anthropology and Sociology, University of Western Australia

**Stewart Firth**

Fellow, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program, ANU

**Peter Shannon**

Independent; formerly, Pacific Islands Branch, DFAT

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5.00 pm

#### **End of Conference**

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5.30 pm  
Hedley Bull  
lecture theatre 1

#### **Public lecture - Co-hosted by SSGM and the ANU Centre for European Studies**

***Tjibaou's Kanak: ethnic identity in New Caledonia past, present and future***

**Denise Fisher**

Visiting Fellow, Centre for European Studies, ANU

# STATE OF THE PACIFIC - PANEL ABSTRACTS

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## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT STREAM

### **Elections in Fiji, 2014**

Convenor: Stewart Firth

This year Fiji will hold its first elections after eight years of military rule. The elections will be under the terms of the Fiji government's new constitution—the fourth in the country's history—and will be for 50 members of parliament elected without regard to race and under a system of open list proportional representation. The government has released electoral rolls and appointed a seven-member Electoral Commission charged with educating voters, registering candidates, settling electoral disputes and enforcing electoral law. In the meantime the mainstream political parties—the Social Democratic Liberal Party or SODELPA, the Fiji Labour Party and the National Federation Party, which have organised themselves as the United Front for a Democratic Fiji, together with a new party called the People's Democratic Party—have cleared the daunting hurdles set for them by the government and been registered to participate. Bainimarama, Fiji's self-appointed prime minister, has stepped down from his position as military commander and will stand for election. He has said he hopes to win all 50 seats.

### **Political settlements: evaluating a new concept in development thinking**

Convenor: Sinclair Dinnen

Technical approaches to institutional reform and development following liberal-democratic and market economy blueprints have generally had disappointing outcomes. Recent years have seen a growing acknowledgement among development actors of the need for a much better understanding of how power, structure and agency combine to shape, constrain and compromise the workings of (formal and informal) institutions, with a view to facilitating more successful development outcomes in recipient countries. The new catch-cry of 'thinking and working politically' has been accompanied by growing investment in political economy analyses and other analytical tools. As a concept, 'political settlements' provides a potentially valuable instrument for enhancing understanding of the organisation and exercise of power in particular local contexts and for enabling the crafting of more appropriate and effective development interventions. In this session, we will examine the concept in the specific contexts of Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands with a view to considering its broader value to development theory and practice.

### **Emerging donors, emerging investors and Australia's changing role in the Pacific**

Convenor: Graeme Smith

A considerable volume of literature in the international relations and security studies field raises concerns about shifts in the geopolitics of the south Pacific, and what this portends for Australia, New Zealand, France and the United States. This panel will bring together a range of experts from different disciplines to examine these issues through the lens of in-country analysis. The panel will explore the perspectives and motivations of Pacific Island actors, and the shifts that are occurring in Pacific aid, trade, investment and diplomacy. Amid calls for Australia to 'muscle up' in terms of its defence and diplomatic presence in the region, perhaps it is better that we 'wise up' and accept that the Pacific has changed. The panel will explore possible new roles for Australia in this changing landscape.



# STATE OF THE PACIFIC - PANEL ABSTRACTS

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## **Land, resources and state formation**

Convenor: Matthew Allen

Struggles over the control of, and access to, land and natural resources loom large in the political economies of contemporary Melanesia. These struggles play out at multiple scales, in myriad institutional spaces, and involve diverse sets of actors. They often have salient gender, inter-generational, and ethnic dimensions. In some instances they are managed peacefully, but in others they can erupt into violence. Struggles over land and the benefits that flow from extractive resource industries are reorganizing political space and reshaping institutions in profound ways. In this sense, they are central to the on-going processes of state formation in region. This session will explore the interactions between land, extractive industries and state formation in contemporary Melanesia. Potential topics will include the political economy of “land grabs” in Vanuatu and PNG; the implications of the shift from logging to mining in Solomon Islands; the reopening of Panguna mine on Bougainville; and the relationships between gender, land and state formation.

## **Elections in Solomon Islands, 2014**

Convenor: Sinclair Dinnen

The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands began a gradual withdrawal from that country in 2011 and 2012. From July 2013 RAMSI's development programs in health, education and justice were transferred to the bilateral Partnership for Development between Australia and Solomon Islands, while RAMSI remains as a mission to assist the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force until 2017. Voter registration is taking place across the country and the Electoral Commission has set up registration centres in Honiara for people working in town to register to vote in their home constituencies. The Solomon Islands election this year will be the first for more than a decade to take place without a strong RAMSI presence, and will test the country's political resources at a time when the economic future is clouded. RAMSI became a substantial contributor to the national economy where it was located, accounting for 38 per cent of GDP on average in the decade of its presence, and its phased withdrawal is having economic consequences. The tropical forests which have fed the timber industry for more than two decades are being depleted, and the newly elected Solomon Islands government will face daunting challenges.

## **Emergent shifts in gender roles**

Convenor: Ceridwen Spark

Twenty-six years ago, anthropologist Paula Brown (1988, p. 137), discussing the impact of education and change on the Simbu wrote, ‘traditional gender roles do change. Perhaps a new generation of educated, urbanized ... women will participate in national affairs and politics’. In 2012, three women were elected to Parliament in Papua New Guinea. The excitement surrounding this outcome was widely interpreted as an indicator of the kind of social change anticipated by Brown. And yet as has been documented in countless reports and research publications, the Pacific region continues to be one of the most inequitable in the world in terms of gender.

In this session, we seek to look ahead but also back in order to understand gender and social change in the Pacific. In doing so, we recognise that despite the plethora of research on and projects designed to address gender issues in the region, women continue to be disadvantaged and marginalized in social, economic and political spheres. How are we to understand this and what does it mean for researchers and policy-makers? Looking back will enable reflection on these key questions.

At the same time, we wish to continue the effort to explain and understand gender inequities in the Pacific through reference to the concept of societies in transition. The papers in the session will discuss emerging masculinities and femininities in the Pacific in order to chart the development of these in their contexts. To do this, it is necessary to consider how contemporary Pacific identities are shaped not only by local contexts or tradition but are being remade in interaction with flows of global ideas, images and practices, including new forms of Christianity and structural economic transformations.

# STATE OF THE PACIFIC - PANEL ABSTRACTS

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## EXPERIMENTS IN DEVELOPMENT STREAM

### **Mobile phones and the Internet in Melanesia: potential and pitfalls**

Convenor: Sarah Logan

Mobile phone and internet penetration rates in Pacific Island countries have soared over the past five years, and many commentators hold great hopes for the potential these technologies hold for improving development and political outcomes. Substantial literature exists on these issues elsewhere in the world, but such literature is only just emerging in Melanesia, as populations and donors begin to grapple with the impact of these technologies on everyday life.

This panel brings together experts in the use of mobile phones for development and commentators on the use of the internet and associated technologies in Melanesia. It investigates the realised and unrealised potential of these technologies in practice and asks: how are mobile phones and the internet being used by Melanesians? How are they being used by development actors? What works, what doesn't and what is likely to occur? The panel highlights an emerging body of work and practice on this topic in Melanesia, adding nuance and depth to existing understanding.

### **Experiments in markets and services**

Convenor: Timothy Sharp

Access to services and a way to earn money are central to local perceptions of development, and are critical to addressing poverty in the Pacific. In many parts of the region the delivery of, and access to, health and education services is poor and people face significant challenges in entering markets for their produce and securing viable livelihoods for themselves. Money and services are also closely entangled: the geography that makes service delivery so challenging also shapes people's access to markets; money influences access to services; and education and health also critically influence livelihoods. With this context this session draws attention to some of the diverse ways in which governments, regional organisations, non-government organisations, private enterprise, and individuals are innovating and experimenting in the area of markets and services.

### **New forms of local governance and justice**

Convenor: Thiago Oppermann

The state and systems of justice in the contemporary Pacific are widely perceived to be in crisis. In some cases it is remote or absent, and in the space of this absence communities are left to navigate a turbulent and uncertain path to development. In other cases, the state is all too present, drawing communities into networks which reproduce at a local level the contours of a broader system; in some contexts, relationships between the state and local communities have also been marked by increasing violence and confrontation. Countervailing this, there are local experiments in organization that challenge contemporary understandings of what the state is, and may be, in the Pacific and beyond.

This shifting landscape presents a challenge to Melanesians and to analysts. How does life proceed in the penumbra between formally informal, and informally formal government? What forms of governance and justice are being created in spaces of negative governance? How is justice understood and administered in contexts of delegitimated states? How do Christianity, kastom and secular normative narratives contribute to these efforts? What are the possible policy approaches to this?

# STATE OF THE PACIFIC - PANEL ABSTRACTS

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## **Placing Pasifika Communities in Australia**

Convenor: Roannie Ng Shiu

The Pasifika community in Australia is largely invisible. Understanding and charactering the Pasifika peoples in Australia poses a challenge given the lack of information and data available for Pasifika people. Pacific islander demographics and statistics at state level and within institutions are better captured. In Queensland the Pasifika community in the Logan-Ipswich corridor is the fastest growing migrant community with some secondary schools reporting Pacific enrolments as high as 80% (Mariner, 2012). In the education and juvenile justice sectors statistics show that Pasifika young people are underrepresented in higher education conversely, in NSW they are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system comprising 25% of all juvenile offenders (Ravulo, 2012). Panelists will discuss current debates, challenges and barriers Pasifika communities face and how we can best address these issues in order to improve the social and economic wellbeing and resiliency of Pasifika communities in Australia.

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