

Post Pandemic Positions

Australian NGOs and Education in a Century of Internationalism: Students, Experts and Friends



Students from Papua New Guinea and Thailand attend the Centre for Continuing Education at the Australian National University, part of a Kellogg Fellowship scheme involving twelve South East Asian and Pacific countries [c. 1981]. *Source: ANU Archives, AU ANUA 226-387.*

An Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia workshop

Convened by:

David Lowe (Deakin University)
Kate Darian-Smith (University of Tasmania)
Jon Piccini (Australian Catholic University)
Melanie Oppenheimer (Australian National University)

21-22 November 2022

Deakin Downtown

Tower 2, Level 12, 727 Collins Street, Melbourne



Australian Policy and History

Aims and rationale

Ten years after the 2012 White Paper on *Australia in the Asian Century*, it is time to assess what has become of some of the major components of the people-to-people aspect of Australia's engagements in its region, noting that this was the subject of most submissions to the White Paper process in 2012.

Australia's advancement of educational and training opportunities within the Indo-Pacific has been core to nation-building, regional co-operation and public diplomacy, but these patterns of educational exchange — and the associated economic, social and cultural benefits — have recently been disrupted by the COVID pandemic and shifting international relations. Drawing upon past and present case studies, this workshop brings together those from government, NGOs and academia to understand the evolving role of public and private actors in shaping international education for Australians at home and abroad, and to identify new and innovative ways to conceptualise the role of NGOs in future educational policy and public diplomacy initiatives in the Indo-Pacific.

This two-day workshop will contribute to the expansion of knowledge about the complex roles of public and private organisations in the development of education and training in shaping Australia's role in its immediate region, identifying how the COVID pandemic and shifting international relations, particularly with China, will determine policy over the next decade. It will:

- reflect on the past, present and future of international education, and what this means now for educational and diplomatic policy directions, and for Australia's capability and capacity to benefit from historic regional and global connections and to build new capacities and capabilities.
- bring scholars together with key stakeholders, including from government and other organisations, and to strengthen partnerships and networks across academia, government and the private sector.
- explore new paradigms for policy directions in international education, regional co-operation and educational and cultural exchange.
- provide professional development and training for early and mid-career researchers by linking scholarly research with policy formation.
- produce a range of scholarly and public outcomes, including policy briefing.

Program

Day One: Monday 21 November 2022

11.15-11.45	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p><i>Morning Tea provided</i></p>	
11.45-1.00	<p>Session 1: Mobility through education and training, and changing notions of ‘home’</p> <p><i>This session explores the nexus between education and globalisation, with reference to the growing diaspora communities in Australia and the relational qualities of home. It examines the importance of rising mobility in international educational opportunities and considers what mobility might look like post-Covid.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fazal Rizvi (University of Melbourne) “International education and the significance of diaspora links” <p><i>Discussants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel Walters (Westpac) • Aedan Whyatt (DFAT) 	<p>Chair: David Lowe (Deakin)</p> <p>25 mins</p> <p>10-12 mins each</p>
1.00-2.00	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>	
2.00-3.25	<p>Session 2: From international houses to international exchange</p> <p><i>Panellists will explore how overseas scholars made homes in Australia from the 1920s, and the experiences of international students at Australian universities and being hosted by community organisations. It includes more recent forms of student experience and scholarly exchanges, including by First Nations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicholas Brown (Australian National University) “A ‘well-intentioned but unplanned, almost random collection of responses’: Perspectives on the Australian international development, aid and education nexus of the 1960s-1970s” • James Waghorne (University of Melbourne) “Different forms of friendship: student support for overseas and Indigenous students at the University of Melbourne, 1950-1960” 	<p>Chair: Kate Darian-Smith (University of Tasmania)</p> <p>15 mins each</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mei-fen Kuo (Macquarie University) “For a Western Education? Chinese Students in Australia from the 1920s to the Cold War” • Jacob Prehn (University of Tasmania) “International Solidarity through the Indigenous Cultural and Educational Exchange (ICEE) Program” 	
3.25-3.45	<i>Afternoon Refreshments</i>	
3.45-5.00	<p>Session 3: Australia in the Asian century: people to people connections, ten years on</p> <p><i>What remains, by way of necessary questions, further research, further work, suggested in the Australia in the Asian Century white paper?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Wesley (University of Melbourne) “Has the Asian century gone? Did it ever exist?” <p><i>Discussants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Lowe (Deakin University) • Michael Bergmann (DFAT) 	<p>Chair: Ian Kemish AM</p> <p>25 mins</p> <p>10-12 mins each</p>
6.15	Dinner – Bangpop, 35 South Wharf Promenade, South Wharf (a short walk from Deakin Downtown). RSVP essential.	

Day Two: Tuesday 22 November 2022

9.00-10.25	<p>Session 4: Student perspectives: international students in the Australian community</p> <p><i>International students from the Asian-Pacific region have profoundly shaped Australia’s higher education system for several decades, and contributed to diplomatic relations in the region, notably through connections between people, institutions and nations. This session explores the evolving experiences and impacts of international education, and political and policy implications of these interactions, and what this all means at the local community level.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Ziguras (RMIT University) <i>Title TBC</i> • Anna Kent (Deakin University) 	<p>Chair: Melanie Oppenheimer (Australian National University)</p> <p>25 mins</p> <p>15 mins each</p>
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	<p>“Changing policy, changing plans: student responses to the end of fee-free education”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Piccini (Australian Catholic University) “Drop-outs from their own country’: Policing international students in 1970s Australia” • Joanne Barker (RMIT University) “The Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships program: promise unfulfilled” 	
10.25-10.55	<i>Morning tea</i>	
10.55-12.00	<p>Session 5: The diplomacy of doing good</p> <p><i>This session will focus on the how Australian NGOs and volunteers facilitated the development of technical aid in different contexts. Case studies include the Australian Red Cross and its international study visit program of the 1950s-70s and trade union exchange.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roland Burke (La Trobe University) “Putting the ‘Others’ in ‘Western and Others’: Australian Pragmatism on Rights and Development, 1960–1993” • Melanie Oppenheimer (Australian National University) “The Australian Red Cross and the Colombo Plan, 1950s-60s” • Alice Garner (University of Melbourne) “International trade union education at Clyde Cameron College in Wodonga: memories and legacies” 	<p>Chair: Jon Piccini (Australian Catholic University)</p> <p>15 mins each</p>
12.00-12.45	<i>Lunch</i>	
12.45-2.00	<p>Session 6: Expert networks and public diplomacy: building Australia’s capacity in the region</p> <p><i>The two-way flow of people between Australia and Asia facilitated by educational and training opportunities has created networks of influence, while migration has fostered significant diasporic communities keenly interested in fostering networks of exchange. This session explores how Australia can build on these networks and better harness underappreciated sources of connection between Australia and the Indo-Pacific region, exploring such issues as the global flows of Indigenous knowledges, the creative arts and</i></p>	<p>Chair: Anna Kent (Deakin University)</p>

	<p><i>the importance of the media in shaping cross-cultural understanding.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pippa Dickson (Asialink) “Trust through public displays of affection” • Dan Edwards (Australian Council for Educational Research) “Exploring the outcomes of Australia’s development scholarships and the role alumni play in developing networks and connections with Australia” • Michele Ford (University of Sydney) “Generating networks of influence: the SSEAC experience” • Chris Roche (La Trobe University) “Friendship, developmental leadership and cross-cultural dialogue: a relational approach to social change” 	15 mins each
2.00-2.30	<i>Stretch and short break</i>	
2.30-3.45	<p>Session 7: The post-pandemic future:</p> <p><i>This session examines how COVID-19, and domestic and international politics, have shifted Australia’s networks and connects in in the Indo-Pacific region for government and NGOs. A panel of experts explore what this means in a post-pandemic world, and how the historic legacies and benefits of non-government exchanges between Australia and Asia, and the arising people-to-people links, can be best optimised in what will be a new regional context.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rowan Callick (Griffith University) “Challenges to citizenry in a geopolitically darkening world” <p><i>Discussants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Kronberger (Austrade) • Lisa Singh (Australia India Institute) 	<p>Participating Chairs: David Lowe (Deakin) Kate Darian-Smith (University of Tasmania)</p> <p>25 mins</p> <p>10-12 mins each</p>
3.45-4.00	Close and Next Steps	All Convenors
4.00-4.45	<p>Book launch: <i>Rising Power and Changing People: The Australian High Commission in India</i>, edited by David Lowe and Eric Meadows</p> <p>To be launched by Fazal Rivzi (University of Melbourne)</p>	

Presenter and chair biographies

Joanne Barker currently holds a post-doctoral research position with RMIT University. Her recent PhD thesis examined value and evaluation in an Australian government international scholarship program.

Michael Bergmann is Director of the New Colombo Plan at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), currently undertaking work to deliver on new government commitments relating to increasing Asian languages and cultural literacy in Australia. Michael has worked across policy and programming in DFAT and previously with AusAID, with a focus on political and electoral governance, NGOs, public administration, strategic communications and event management.

Nicholas Brown is a professor in the School of History, Australian National University. His current projects include contributions to a biography of the Australian economist, J.G. Crawford.

Roland Burke is senior lecturer in history at La Trobe University. His research is focussed on the history of human rights and anti-colonialism, economic and social rights, sentiment and emotion in the post-war UN, and the language of technical expertise in rights debates.

Rowan Callick is an industry fellow at Griffith University's Asia Institute. He has worked for 10 years with a local publishing group in Papua New Guinea, and as China Correspondent and Asia-Pacific Editor for both *The Australian Financial Review* and *The Australian*.

Kate Darian-Smith is Executive Dean, College of Arts, Law and Education at the University of Tasmania, and has published widely on the histories of social and cultural change in Australia. Recent work has examined migration and memory, including the experiences of international students, and how war and social disruption have shaped the development of the professions and universities in Australia. She is co-editor, with David Lowe, of *The Australian Embassy in Tokyo and Australia-Japan Relations* (ANU Press) to be released in November 2022.

Pippa Dickson is the Director of Asialink Arts at Asialink, the University of Melbourne. She is committed to facilitating true partnership between Australia and Asia in the arts and creative industry sectors. Pippa has leveraged her extensive arts leadership experience both nationally and internationally during the last three years to navigate the challenges of pandemic and post pandemic international engagement.

Daniel Edwards is Research Director, Tertiary Education at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). For the past seven years he has led the DFAT-funded Australia Awards Global Tracer Facility, a research program designed to increase understanding of the long-term outcomes of alumni of Australian development scholarships, ranging from the Colombo Plan in the 1950s to the Australia Awards today.

Michele Ford is the Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, a university-wide multidisciplinary initiative at the University of Sydney. In addition to conducting her own research, she leads a team that focuses on supporting Australian scholars' engagement with the region.

Alice Garner is a historian based in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education. Her publications include *Academic Ambassadors, Pacific Allies: Australia, America and the Fulbright Program* (Manchester UP) co-authored with Diane Kirkby. Her latest project is an interdisciplinary investigation of the history of Australian trade union education.

Anna Kent has a PhD from Deakin University. Her thesis was titled ‘Australian Government Scholarships for Papua New Guinea and the Pacific: mandates and mis-steps, 1948 – 2018’. Her research interests include international education, international development and the intersections between foreign policy, international education and international development.

Ian Kemish AM is a former senior Australian diplomat. He served as Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, as Ambassador to Germany, Head of the South-East Asia and Consular divisions of DFAT, and as head of the International Division at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Ian currently leads his own strategic advisory business, is a senior adviser to the Global Partnership for Education on Indo-Pacific, a Director of the Australia-Indonesia Centre, and an Honorary Fellow at Deakin University.

Mei-fen Kuo is a Lecturer in Contemporary Chinese Culture and History at Macquarie University. Her current project focuses on the history of the Cold War and its impact on the identity politics of Chinese Australians.

Helen Kronberger is Manager, International Education (Global Engagement) at the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade). Helen brings over 20 years’ experience in international education across HE, VET and Government to her role at Austrade, including working in-country on behalf of Australian providers across Asia, Europe, Scandinavia and the Americas.

David Lowe holds a chair in contemporary history at Deakin. He is a historian of modern international relations and Australia in world affairs. He is also interested in the remembering of aspects of the recent past, and, with colleague Tony Joel, is series editor of Routledge’s *Remembering the Modern World* series. He is currently completing an international history of the Colombo Plan for publication with Cambridge University Press, and with Eric Meadows, he recently published the edited book, *Rising Power and Changing People: Australia’s High Commission in India* (ANU Press).

Melanie Oppenheimer is an Honorary Professor in the School of History at the ANU. Previously she held the position of Chair and Professor of History at Flinders University where she was appointed Emeritus Professor in 2021, and the Visiting Chair in Australian Studies at the University of Tokyo, 2018-19.

Jon Piccini is Lecturer in History at Australian Catholic University in Brisbane. His work is broadly concerned with “Australia in the world”, with a focus on social movements, the history of ideas, as well as politics and culture. He wrote *Transnational Protest, Australia and the 1960s: Global Radicals* (Palgrave, 2016), *Human Rights in Twentieth Century Australia* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), and edited with Evan Smith and Matthew Worley *The Far Left in Australia since 1945* (Routledge, 2019). He is currently working on a manuscript exploring the impact of decolonisation on post-war Australia.

Jacob Prehn is a proud Worimi (Aboriginal) man and is an Indigenous Fellow, Senior Lecturer, and Master of Social Work Course Coordinator in the School of Social Sciences at the University

of Tasmania. He is an award-winning Early Career Researcher in the fields of sociology and social work and current co-CI on a \$1.25million NMHRC research grant.

Fazal Rizvi is an Emeritus Professor at the Universities of Melbourne in Australia and Illinois at Urbana Champaign in the United States. He has written extensively on globalisation and education policy, issues of identity and culture in transnational contexts and cosmopolitan learning.

Chris Roche is Professor of Development Practice at La Trobe University, Director of the Institute for Human Security and Social Change and Deputy Director (Impact) of the Developmental Leadership Program. Before joining La Trobe he worked for a variety of International NGOs for some 25 years.

Lisa Singh is the CEO of the Australia India Institute, Deputy Chair of the Australian Government's Australia-India Council and sits on the advisory board of the University of Melbourne's Asialink. Lisa is also a former Australian Senator and former Tasmanian MP.

James Waghorne is Senior Research Fellow and University Historian at the Centre for the Study of Higher Education, University of Melbourne. He works on history of higher education in Australia, with an emphasis on students.

Rachel Walters *TBC*

Michael Wesley is Deputy Vice-Chancellor International and Professor of Politics at the University of Melbourne. His research and writing focuses on Australian foreign policy and the international affairs of Asia and the Pacific.

Aedan Whyatt is the Assistant Secretary for the Global Programs and Partnerships Branch in Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Aedan has more than 15 years' experience working across a range of Pacific, Southeast Asian and international policy roles and holds a Master of International Studies from the University of Queensland.

Chris Ziguras is Associate Dean, Global and Language Studies at RMIT. His research focuses on the globalisation of higher education and in particular the regulation of cross-border flows of students, programs and education providers. Chris was President of the International Education Association of Australia 2015-18 and chairs the Academic Board of the Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan.

Information

Venue, directions and transport

The venue is Deakin Downtown, a campus of Deakin University located just on the western edge of the Melbourne CBD near Southern Cross station. The address is Tower 2, Level 12, 727 Collins Street. For public transport, trams #11 and #48 along Collins St stop outside the building (stop D15). Further transport information can be found at:

<https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/>.

If you are traveling by tram from outside the fare-free zone, or traveling by train or bus, you will need a Myki card which can be purchased at any train station or from a number of Myki vending machines, newsagents or convenience stores. Please see details at:

<https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki/buy-a-myki-and-top-up/>.

Catering

This event is fully catered. There will be a range of gluten-free and vegan options available as well. Please contact anna.kent@deakin.edu.au if you have additional requirements.

Covid-19

Please note: This is a mask-friendly event. Deakin University's current advice is not to attend the campus if you are symptomatic. While vaccination is no longer mandatory, it is strongly recommended. If you develop symptoms in the days following the event, please get tested for COVID-19 and notify the workshop convenors if you test positive.

Further information is available at the University's COVID-Safe guidelines here:

<https://www.deakin.edu.au/covidsafe>

Book launch

Workshop attendees are invited to attend the launch of *Rising Power and Changing People: The Australian High Commission in India*, edited by David Lowe and Eric Meadows, published by ANU Press. The launch is hosted by Deakin University and the Australia India Institute. It will take place following the final session on day two, Tuesday 22 November. Drinks and canapes will be provided. Please register here if you plan to attend: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rising-power-and-changing-people-the-australian-high-commission-in-india-tickets-462705423377>

Workshop dinner

All presenters and discussants are invited to a dinner on the evening of day one, Monday 21 November. The venue is Bangpop (35 South Wharf Promenade, a short walk from Deakin). Please confirm your attendance and any dietary requirements with Anna Kent (anna.kent@deakin.edu.au).

Contacts

For any queries, please contact Kyle Harvey (kyle.harvey@utas.edu.au) or Anna Kent (anna.kent@deakin.edu.au).