RESEARCH CLUSTERS

The Asia Research Centre comprises four core research clusters: The Political Economy of Governance Reform; History, Culture and Regional Intersections; Resources, Environment and Conflict; and Human Security. Each cluster involves a critical mass of researchers with an established record of, and further potential for, attracting external research grants, productivity in quality academic publications and successful PhD supervision. All researchers currently meet or significantly exceed Murdoch University’s ‘research active’ criteria.

Cluster 2: History, Culture and Regional Intersections

Contemporary Asian societies, economies and cultures are a product of their distinctive histories. The cluster’s examination of this has three dimensions. One includes research on the history of nationalism and militarism in Japan and on the aftermath and consequences of the Second World War in the Pacific region. A second centres on the history of trans-regional connections that have bound together the peoples of Northeast and Southeast Asia through economic and social ties, and have also driven conflict and transformation between and within Asian societies. A third analyses political questions as they are represented in creative works and practices – notably in literature and cinema – from across, about and in intersection with the Asian region. Current research includes projects on: the politics of modern Japan’s ‘opening’ to the Asian region; Japanese war crimes and the politics of Allied war crimes trials of Japanese suspects; global commodity chains in the Indian Ocean world; the cultural-ecological relations of maritime states in Southeast Asia; the intersection of new media and politics in contemporary Japanese and Singaporean performance art; and on vernacular literatures and national cinemas as they challenge and address dominant global cultural practices.

Key Researchers

Dr Dean Aszkiewicz, Dr James Boyd, A/Prof Mick Broderick, Prof Helena Grehan, Prof Rikki Kersten, Prof Vijay Mishra, Dr Takeshi Moriyama, Prof James Warren, Prof Sandra Wilson (cluster leader).

Major Grants:

Mick Broderick, Nuclear Futures, (with R Jacobs and P Brown), Australian Council for the Arts, 2014-16, $620,000.
Mick Broderick (with R Jacobs), The Global Hibakusha Project, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, 2011-14, $150,000.
Helena Grehan (with P Eckersall, E Scheer, C Wake, J Reinelt and E Paterson), Power and Performance: Revaluing Theatre in the 21st century, ARC Discovery Project, 2016-18, $137,455.
Sandra Wilson (with B Trefalt), Reading Older Forms of Japanese, Japan Foundation Grant Program for Intellectual Exchange Conferences, 2010-2011, $20,000.

Select Recent Publications


Helena Grehan (with Peter Eckersall and Edward Scheer), 2017, New Media Dramaturgy: Performance, Media and New Materialism, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.


Recent PhD Graduates


