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 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 work in these areas 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 – across, about and in intersection with the Asian region. Current research includes projects on: Japanese intellectuals’ engagement with the outside world in the 18th and 19th centuries; Japanese war crimes; diplomatic alliances among Japan, Australia and the U.S. in the 1950s; democratic movements in Thailand from the 1930s onwards; 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; links between post-colonial identities, migration and diasporas; and vernacular literatures and national cinemas as they challenge and address dominant global cultural practices.

Key Researchers
Dr Dean Aszkiewicz, A/Prof Mick Broderick, Dr Rahul Gairola, Prof Helena Grehan, Prof Rikki Kersten, Prof Vijay Mishra, Dr Takeshi Moriyama, Dr Arjun Subrahmanyan, Prof James Warren, Prof Sandra Wilson (cluster leader).

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Mick Broderick, (with R Jacobs and P Brown), Nuclear Futures, 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.
Select Recent Publications

Recent PhD Graduates