The Asia Research Centre comprises four core research clusters: The Political Economy of Governance Reform; History, Politics 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 4: Security

Security issues are at the heart of key policy and governance challenges for policy makers and citizens in Asia. This cluster incorporates researchers working on the broad area of security, including issues of environment, health, food, infrastructure, migration and political and ethnic violence that are seen to shape livelihoods, rights, choices and opportunities of individuals. Researchers examine how new avenues and modes of security governance emerge at global, national and subnational levels and are accommodated and/or resisted. Understanding the intersection of security and human rights is part of this enquiry. Central questions include: How are security priorities determined, by whom, and what are the implications for social and political rights, the allocation of resources, poverty, and environmental degradation? Current projects examine: the politics of the urban poor; infrastructural violence; policing and the politics of social order; the dynamics of illicit economies; state violence and implications for both security and insecurity; and the intersection between rights, peace-building and critical security studies.

Key Researchers
Dr Jacqui Baker, Dr Rajat Ganguly, Dr Victoria Mason, A/Prof Carol Warren, Dr Ian Wilson (cluster leader).

Major Grants

Ian Wilson (with A Savirani), Vertical Politics: ‘the socio-economic and political impacts of vertical housing in Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Gadjah Mada University International Collaboration Research grant scheme (funded by the LPDP: Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education), 2017-18, $23,000

Victoria Mason, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories’ Project, British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2009-15, $60,000.

Ian Wilson (with A Rosser and P Sulistiyanto), The Politics of Free Public Services in Decentralised Indonesia, AusAID, 2010-2011, $22,500.

Victoria Mason, Inaugural Australian-Arab Women’s Dialogue, AusAID $146,195; Council for Australia-Arab Relations, DFAT $20,000; and the ANU $23,000, 2012-2013, $189,195.

Ian Wilson and Jane Hutchison (with C Hughes and A Rosser), Remaking the poor: Poor People’s Responses to Donors’ Market Citizenship Programs in Southeast Asia, ARC Discovery Project, 2013-15, $193,088.


Carol Warren (with J McCarthy and A McWilliams), Household Vulnerability and the Politics of Social Protection in Indonesia: Towards an Integrated Approach, ARC Discovery Project, 2014-16, $385,000.


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