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Cherry blossom season in Kyoto. Photo by Emeritus Prof. Kevin Hewison.
The Centre’s objectives are:
• Research – to produce high quality academic research publications for international and domestic audiences;
• Training – to foster the development of high quality research graduates; and
• Engagement – to contribute to public policy debate and public understanding on issues concerning contemporary Asia.

Through a nationally competitive process, the Asia Research Centre was established as a Special Research Centre of the Australian Research Council in 1991 to provide analysis of social, political and economic change in contemporary East and Southeast Asia. Since the conclusion of this funding in 1999, Centre support has been comparatively limited and mainly from the University’s Schools, and occasional injections of strategic seed funding from the University.

The Asia Research Centre makes a strong contribution to the University’s Strategic Plan, which emphasizes research excellence and internationalisation. It does this through its work towards understanding and engaging with the dynamic Asian region.

The Centre encompasses researchers from three of Murdoch University’s Schools and provides an intellectual community that supports them and their research. Centre Fellows regularly collaborate with other researchers from universities in the region and from around the world.

The Centre has a strong postgraduate training programme and an excellent reputation for graduating students who have completed exceptional doctoral theses. The Centre has a large cohort of domestic and international students supervised by its internationally acclaimed researchers.

For more than two decades, the Asia Research Centre has been an international leader in the study of East and Southeast Asia. The Centre’s researchers and postgraduate students have undertaken fundamental disciplinary and interdisciplinary research that examines a range of social, political, economic and environmental developments within this dynamic and important region.

Thematic to Centre research is the analysis of conflicts in a range of situations. These include: political and economic regimes; environmental and natural resources; ethnic, religious and national identities; cultural and media systems; and the security of states, communities and individuals. This research spans national, sub-national, regional and international levels.

Zunar’s seminar. Photo by Robert Fyfe

About the Centre
Centre Researchers

- Professor Garry Rodan, Director
- Dr Dean Azskielowicz
- Dr Jacqui Baker
- Dr Azad Singh Bali
- Dr James Boyd
- Dr Joseph Christensen
- Dr Yingchi Chu
- Dr Rajat Ganguly
- Emeritus Professor David Hill
- Dr Jane Hutchison
- Professor Kanishka Jayasuriya
- Professor Rikki Kersten
- Associate Professor Terence Lee
- Professor Neill Loneragan
- Dr Greg Lopez
- Professor Samuel Makinda
- Dr Victoria Mason

- Dr Takeshi Moriyama
- Professor Benjamin Reilly
- Emeritus Professor Richard Robison
- Dr Fabio Scarpello
- Emeritus Professor Ian Scott
- Dr Arjun Subrahmanyan
- Dr Ranald Taylor
- Professor Malcolm Tull
- Associate Professor Peter Waring
- Associate Professor Carol Warren
- Professor James Warren
- Dr Ian Wilson
- Dr Jeffrey Wilson
- Professor Sandra Wilson
- Professor Xiaowen Tian
Centre Governance

The Centre is governed and advised on broad policy issues by a Board, chaired by Professor Neil Loneragan. An International Advisory Panel of eminent scholars and research leaders provide advice and guidance in the pursuit of the Centre’s research agenda.

The Centre Board

- **Professor Neil Loneragan**, School of Veterinary and Life Sciences, Environmental & Conservation Sciences, (Chair)
- **Professor Garry Rodan**, Director, Asia Research Centre
- **Dr Jane Hutchison**, School of Business & Governance (resigned from Board in March 2016)
- **Professor Kanishka Jayasuriya**, School of Business & Governance
- **Professor Malcolm Tull**, School of Business & Governance
- **Associate Professor Carol Warren**, School of Arts
- **Dr Jeffrey Wilson**, School of Business & Governance
- **Professor Sandra Wilson**, School of Arts
- **Andrea Gleason**, Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Western Australia

The International Advisory Panel

- **Professor Amitav Acharya**, UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance and Chair of the ASEAN Studies Center, American University, Washington D.C., U.S.A.
- **Professor Chua Beng Huat**, Provost/Chair, Professor, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore
- **Professor Jomo Kwane Sundaram**, Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Kuala Lumpur
- **Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki**, Professor of Japanese History, School of Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University, Canberra
- **Professor Yoon Hwan Shin**, Professor of Political Science and Director, Institute of East Asian Studies, Sogang University, Seoul, Korea
- **Professor Takashi Shiraishi**, President, IDE-JETRO and President, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan
- **James T. H. Tang**, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Professor of Political Science, Singapore Management University
- **Professor Lynn T. White**, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Emeritus, Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.
- **Professor Zang Xiaowei**, Chair Professor and Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, City University of Hong Kong

Indonesian Police guarding a demonstration. Photo by Dr Ian Wilson
At both the University and Centre level, 2016 was a year that ushered in significant new appointments and reflection upon research directions and strategies.

In May, Professor Eeva Leinonen began her post as the University’s new Vice-Chancellor. This paved the way for approval of a new University policy on research institutes and centres, portending greater concentration of resources in areas of genuine international reputation and strength.

Meanwhile, Professor Garry Rodan took up the Asia Research Centre directorship following the retirement of previous Director Professor Kevin Hewison at the end of 2015. The Centre received a major boost in early 2016 with the return of Kanishka Jayasuriya to Murdoch as the Professor and Head of the Politics Discipline. Professor Jayasuriya’s distinction as a research leader and mentor is important, particularly for the emerging researchers who have been appointed Centre Fellows over the last two years.

Fellows in this category include Dr Dean Aszkeilowicz, Dr Jacqui Baker, Dr Vicky Mason, Dr Kim Moloney, Dr Bali Singh, and Dr Arjun Subrahmanyan. These appointments helped open up options during 2016 in response to the University’s strategic research plan. This response included the formation of new research clusters intended to optimise the visibility and collaborative opportunities within and beyond Murdoch University of the Centre’s different research strengths.

There were also changes to the composition of the Centre’s Board of Management in 2016. Professors Jayasuriya and Sandra Wilson and Dr Jeffrey Wilson were added, injecting valuable new perspectives and expertise.

Research achievements

In raw figures, publications by Fellows in 2016 included 1 authored book, four co-edited books, 32 journal articles and 23 book chapters. Each analyses an aspect of Asia and/or its relationships with the rest of the world.

Fellows were involved in 11 successful external grants, involving a total of $676,820 of academic and consultancy research income. A significant development in 2016 was a greater diversity of sources beyond Australian Research Council grants, which have long been the mainstay of the Centre’s research funding. This is a pattern that the Centre hopes to consolidate and extend in the future. The largest grant of $398,000 from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation involved Professors Malcolm Tull and Neil Loneragan and their collaborators. Another sizeable grant included Professor Ian Scott’s $86,800 from the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Meanwhile, Dr Jeffrey Wilson held a co-appointment as a Research Fellow with the Perth US Asia Centre.

Professional recognition and honours during the year also reflected the standing of several researchers among their peers. This included Dr Jeffrey Wilson’s appointment as editor-in-chief of the journal Contemporary Politics (A-ranked by the Australia Political Studies Association), Professor Malcolm Tull’s appointment as the first non-European President of the International Maritime History Association, and Professor Sandra Wilson’s election to secretary of the Asian Studies Association of Australia.
In postgraduate research, the conferment in May of Airlangga Kusman’s PhD, Local Power and Good Governance in Post Authoritarian Indonesia: The Case of Surabaya, marked the 46th PhD completion for the Centre since its establishment. Another six theses were submitted for examination in 2016, five of which had favourable reports back by year’s end.

The Centre’s outstanding record of success in applications for the extremely competitive Prime Minister’s Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship was also maintained in 2016 with an award to Lian Sinclair. This provides Mr Sinclair $52,000 for ten months of fieldwork on his project ‘Undermining Conflict: Australian Miners and Corporate Social Responsibility in Indonesia.’ Another student, Muhammad Faris Al Fadhat, was elected President of the Association of Indonesian Postgraduate Students and Scholars in Australia (AIPSSA), a significant honour.

Research Clusters

During 2016, the Australian Government endorsed the recommendations of the 2015 Watt Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements. Under these changes, from 2017 only (1) external research income and (2) PhD completions will generate research block grant funding. Furthermore, all categories of external research income – whether they be peer assessed or research consultancies – now matter equally. Universities will also be assessed for research impact as well as research output, as is already the case in the United Kingdom. This exercise is projected to accompany the existing Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) evaluations, which are conducted every three years.

The University’s strategic research plan has also evolved towards greater emphasis on public policy problem solving, including through understanding governance institutions.

Against this background, in late 2016 it was decided to give greater visibility to the broader policy relevance of Fellows’ research through the identification of four core research clusters:

(1) the political economy of governance reform;
(2) history, culture and regional intersections;
(3) resources, environment and conflict; and
(4) human security.

Each cluster boasts a critical mass of researchers with strong records of, and further potential for, quality publications, external research grants and attraction and completion of externally funded PhD students. The full details of these clusters are available from the Centre’s website.

These clusters are integral to new strategies to intensify and extend the Centre’s existing research collaborations, public policy engagement, and the social impact of its research. To be sure, in all these respects the Centre already has strong records. However, the new government model for research block grant funding provides the incentive and necessity to push deeper and more concertedly down these paths.

These clusters also open up the potential to consolidate expertise on Asia in conjunction with comparative research projects that explore multiple regions. Both the public policy and theoretical academic issues that define each cluster are amenable to wider comparative investigations across the Indo-Pacific. The potential for this new direction is augmented by recent additions of Fellows to the Asia Research Centre, including new appointments (Drs Kim Moloney and Vicky Mason) equipped and committed to undertake comparative regional studies that include Africa and/or the Middle East with Asia.

In 2016, the Centre also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for East Asian Studies, Sogang University to promote research collaboration across the social sciences and humanities. This could be an opportunity for one or more of the new clusters.
Workshops, Seminars and Public Engagement

Throughout 2016 the Centre hosted a diverse range of events. These facilitate the progress of large-scale international collaborative research projects, and foster public engagement with prominent researchers, political actors, and analysts from non-governmental organisations and think tanks.

One theme to the Centre’s Public Seminar Series was interrogation of the nature and causes of political regime evolution in Asia. This began with a contribution from Professor Ben Reilly outlining the divergence between modernization theory and the failure of democracy to become uniformly entrenched in the region. Subsequently, Professor Mark Thompson of City University of Hong Kong examined more closely the underlying forces of discontent with prevailing electoral models of democracy. Associate-Professor Daniel Slater of the University of Chicago also analysed, where, how and why historical forces have facilitated democracy through concessions by authoritarians in Asia. Complementing this theme, Dr Wong Chin Huat of the Penang Institute examined the way that Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has been able to consolidate his power despite mass popular protests.

In another seminar, Professor Motohiro Kurokawa from Takasaki City University analysed the significance of creative design in developing economies, with special focus on Thailand. A joint seminar by Murdoch’s Professor Michael Sturma and his research collaborator from the National Institute of Defence Studies in Tokyo, Mr Hiroyuki Shindo, also offered a reappraisal of the 1944 American submarine attack on a convoy of Japanese ships sailing from Singapore to Japan.

The Public Seminar Series also traversed a range of policy issues by academics, analysts from non-governmental organisations and political activists. This included: University of Hull’s Professor Greg Bangkok analysing the challenges of earthquake disaster risk management in Kazakhstan; Dr Sidney Jones, of the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, examining challenges of confronting ISIS in Indonesia; and political cartoonist Mr Zulkifli Sm Arwar Ulhaque talking about freedom of expression in Malaysia.

The Perth USAsia Centre, the Australian Institute of International Affairs, and the Indonesia Institute were also valued partners in jointly hosted presentations. Among these were the presentation at Murdoch by Dr Sidney Jones and another by Dr Daniel Twining of the German Marshall Fund on America, China and the future of global power. They also included a joint venture at the University of Western Australia where former Australian government Defence Minister Stephen Smith spoke about the aftermath of the US election.

There was a significant new collaboration between the Australian National University’s Indonesia Project and Murdoch’s Indonesia Research Programme, led by Centre Fellows Dr Jacqui Baker and Dr Ian Wilson. This resulted in seven Indonesian and Australian researchers coming together at Murdoch University for a one-day workshop. The focus was on the challenges and opportunities of digital disruption for Indonesia’s political and social institutions. This exercise was an adjunct to the annual ANU Indonesia Update held in Canberra and attracted strong interest from academic, policy and diplomatic communities in Perth.

The 2016 International Congress of Maritime History was hosted at Murdoch University. It provided the opportunity for international collaborators in Professor James Warren’s Australian Research Council Discovery Project – Pearls, People and Power: Global Commodity History and Material Culture in Transformation of the Indian Ocean World, 16th – 20th Centuries – to present twelve separate work in progress papers.

Media Impact

Centre Fellows made extensive and diverse contributions in 2016 to public debate and policy analysis through local, national and international media. These contributions included a wide range of print, digital and social media platforms, projecting insights from Fellows’ research to elite and popular audiences.

Fellows made sustained thematic contributions through analyses of (a) social and political conflict in Asia; and (b) the trade, investment and foreign policy challenges which emerged during 2016. This included contributions about: the breakdown of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement; curbs in Malaysia on political expression through the Internet; the roots of state violence in Duterte’s ‘war on drugs’ in the Philippines; territorial disputes in the South China Sea; legislative changes to presidential elections in Singapore; Chinese investment in Australia; the political economy of Islamist vigilantes in Indonesia; and electoral reform options in the Philippines.


At the national level, they were quoted by, or interviewed in, Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, The Australian, Herald Sun, Australian Financial Review, Vice News, ABC Online, ABC Triple J Hack, The Wire and various
programmes on ABC Radio National. Among the national television appearances, Jeffrey Wilson was most prominent through several appearances on the ABC 7.30 Report, ABC Lateline and Sky News. Fellows also wrote many opinion pieces for a range of blog sites, including: The Conversation; East Asia Forum; New Mandala; and Australian Outlook. At a more local and regional state level, interviews were given by Fellows for RTR Perth Radio, Drive Programme Radio 6PR Perth, and ABC Rural.

Support

During 2016, the principal source of core funding for the salaries of the Director and Administrative Officer, as well as a small administrative budget, was the School of Business and Governance. The Centre is most appreciative of this support from the School in the context of its extremely tight finances. The Centre more generally benefited throughout 2016 from the leadership and collegiality of the School provided by the Acting Dean Grant Cullen, and the Associate Dean of Research Domenico Gasbarro. The latter’s term finished at the end of the year after outstanding service in the role, which we are very thankful for. The support and advice of the School Business Manager, Shaun Major, was also exceptional on a wide range of complex issues.

At the end of 2016, secure and predictable funding arrangements for the Asia Research Centre over the longer term were yet to be determined. The Panel Report of the 2015 Review of the Asia Research Centre recommended that the Asia Research Centre should become a Murdoch Research Centre, if proposals for a new University policy on Institutes and Centres were eventually approved. New Vice Chancellor Professor Eeva Leinonen has since endorsed the Policy. It is anticipated that applications for, and evaluations of, proposed Institutes and Centres will begin in 2017.

Finally, a special thanks to the Centre’s Administrative Officer, Ms Sia Kozlowski, who performed magnificently across the considerable breadth, complexity and volume of tasks required to support the research activities of Fellows and postgraduates and the numerous public engagement and outreach activities of the Centre.

Garry Rodan
Director

Kyoto. Photo by Emeritus Prof. Kevin Hewison
Asia Research Centre
Public Seminar Series

• Professor Michael Sturma, Murdoch University and Mr Hiroyuki Shindo, National Institute of Defence Studies, Tokyo, Convoy HI-72: Toward an Australian – Japanese Collaborative Naval History

• Professor Stephen Smith, University of Western Australia, Election aftermath: What the US Election means for Australia-Indonesia relations. In collaboration with the Perth USAsia Centre, Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) and the Indonesia Institute.


• Associate Professor Dan Slater, University of Chicago, Democracy through Strength: Asia’s Development and Democratization.

• Professor Motohiro Kurokawa (currently Visiting Professor at the Asia Research Centre), Economic Development & Design: the Contribution of Creative Industry in Developing Economies

• Zunar, Malaysian Political Cartoonist, To Fight Through Cartoons

• Professor Greg Bankoff, University of Hull, UK, What happened to the Second World? The Challenges of Earthquake Disaster Risk Reduction in Kazakhstan

• Professor Mark Thompson, City University of Hong Kong, Democracy and its discontents in Southeast Asia

• Sidney Jones, Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict and Navhat Nuraniyah, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore, The Challenges of Confronting ISIS in Indonesia

• Dr Wong Chin Huat, Penang Institute, Najib Razak’s Resilience and Malaysia’s Collective Action Problems

• Professor Benjamin Reilly, Sir Walter Murdoch School, Murdoch University, The Region that Ate Theory: Modernization and Democratization in East Asia

Sidney Jones’ public seminar. Photo by Robert Fyfe
Asia Research Centre
Public Seminar Series

Associate Professor Dan Slater

Dr Wong Chin-Huat

Dr Daniel Twining and Professor Garry Rodan

Zulkifli Anwar Ulhaque, Zunar. Photo by Robert Fyfe

Professor Mark Thompson
Digital Indonesia: Challenges and Opportunities in The Digital Revolution

New digital technologies are radically changing social and political relationships with Asia. No more than in Indonesia. We know it as the world’s twitter capital, and a voracious consumer of Facebook (better known as fesbuk). Social media represents only one of the ways in which digital devices and infrastructure are radically reforming the political and economic landscape. But who benefits from the digital revolution? Is digitization undermining or strengthening Indonesia’s new democracy? These questions were addressed on September 19 when a “mini-Update on Indonesia” was hosted by Murdoch’s Indonesia Research Program in collaboration with the ANU’s Indonesia Project, off the back of a two day Indonesia Update held in Canberra on the 17 – 18th.

The ANU Indonesia Update, run since 1983 in Canberra, is an institution for scholars of Indonesia. However this was the first time the Update has run in “mini” form to a non-East coast audience. Four speakers came to Murdoch from the Canberra event to present alongside three Murdoch based speakers to a healthy audience of around 80.

Co-convenor of the Update, ANU’s Dr Ross Tapsell, opened with a revealing presentation on how digital convergence has greatly amplified the power of Indonesia’s already powerful media barons. The 2014 elections saw a number of media oligarchs either competing for government outright or playing politically-laden but decisive roles in broadcasting the election results.

Similarly, Murdoch PhD candidate Nicole Andres, charted the ways in which the media become implicated in political feuds, leading most memorably to the 2010 downfall of Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati (recently returned to the job).

Atma Jaya academic and novelist Dr Andina Dwifatma explored citizen blogs, hosted on major national news sites, which file up to 1000 stories per day. Although such blogs provide an important counter to big media, citizen blogs don’t necessarily provide ordinary Indonesians with a voice. Rather, they tend to be utilised by tech savvy, urban middle class and bring their own controversies such as plagiarism and political bias.

Digital activist Onno Purbo contributed a masterful presentation on Indonesia’s “digital divide”. Highlighting how government programmes for digital infrastructure have been hijacked by political and special interests, Onno has devoted his life’s work to bringing the internet to the thousands of Indonesian villages forgotten by policy initiatives. Onno showed how the spine of a rogue digital infrastructure is being built from the bottom up across Indonesia, using everything from wifi cooking woks to computers wedged in the branches of towering forest trees.

Budi Rahardjo showed how Indonesia’s reputation as a global centre for cyber-attacks is less about a hacker army than really about the country’s own vulnerability to cyber hackers and, its citizens’ laissez faire approach to cyber security and net privacy. RMIT academic John Posthill presented on the growing class of global digital activists in Indonesia and beyond, emphasising that politics and digitization can no longer operate as separate spheres. Finally, as discussant, Murdoch Emeritus Professor David Hill, author of numerous books and articles on the Indonesian media, concluded the event with a series of acute observations on how technology has shaped Indonesia’s socio-political landscape over the past 20 years.

Although the collaboration with ANU was a first for Murdoch, it comes off the back of a decade of conversation through publications and debate between scholars at ANU and Murdoch on how best to approach the study of Indonesian politics. That debate continues to shape our understanding of Indonesia.

Kanishka Jayasuriya convened a panel at the IPSA on the ‘Politics of the new right in Asia’ and included papers on India, Indonesia, South Korea, Australia and Japan. The paper explored the emergence of a new right authoritarianism in Asia. The panel explored these issues in the context of the relationship between democratic politics and inequality and changing relationship between capitalist development and political contestation. The paper will be submitted to a A rated journal.
Report on the 7th International Congress of Maritime History

The 7th International Congress of Maritime History was held at Murdoch University, from 27 June - 1 July 2016. This was the first conference in the series to be held in the Southern Hemisphere and coincided with the 400th anniversary of the Dutch mariner Dirk Hartog’s landfall on the Western Australian coast on 25 October 1616. The Congress was a joint initiative by the International Maritime History Association (IMHA) and the Australian Association for Maritime History. The organising committee was led by Professor Malcolm Tull and included Dr Joseph Christensen from the Asia Research Centre.

The Congress provided a forum for the inaugural meeting of all investigators and collaborators in Professor James Warren’s Discovery Project ‘Pearls, People, and Power: Global Commodity History and Material Culture in the Transformation of the Indian Ocean World (IOW), 16th-20th Centuries’. A total of twelve papers were presented across three panels that dealt with production, labour allocation, trade and consumption of pearls and mother-of-pearl across an interconnected region spanning from East Africa and the Red Sea to the Arabian Gulf, India and Sri Lanka, Northwest Australia and Torres Strait, and the waters of Southeast Asia.

One of the principal aims of Professor Warren’s Discovery project is to investigate the multi-dimensional and interdependent connections of IOW history, as revealed through comparative studies of different pearling industries. The repercussions of this global trade resulted in the mass movement of peoples to the IOW pearling grounds, and led to the advent of conflicts between local rulers and imperial powers over the control of pearling industries and the conduct of trade in commodities such as opium, textiles, guns and tea linked to the production and circulation of pearls and pearl shell.
Electoral Reform in the Philippines

Electoral reform is a perennial issue of debate in the Philippines. In 2016, in the lead-up to national Congressional and presidential elections, Professor Benjamin Reilly was contracted by the Asia Foundation and DFAT to draft a series of web-based ‘think pieces’ to start a more informed national debate on potential areas of electoral reform. These were run as on-line op-eds on Rappler, a popular social media and news website in the Philippines.

Each piece looked in detail at an issue of concern in the Philippines political process: the means of electing the president, the problem of ‘split ticket’ voting between the presidential and vice-presidential candidate, the malfunctioning party-list system designed to represent sectional minorities, equitable gender representation in congress, options for bicameralism and other legislative reform, and reform of local government elections. Each piece looked at the Philippines in a comparative context, including some potential remedies and responses to the problems identified.

Various graphics also accompanied each piece to highlight various graphics to help make what were sometimes technical debates more accessible and to aid media coverage.

Did you know?

The Philippine 15th Congress is dominated by men?

Women in Congress

1/4 of senators are women

1/4 of deputies are women

Did you know?

In all elections under the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the winning presidential candidate did not get a majority vote.
Visiting Professor Motohiro Kurokawa

Motohiro Kurokawa is a Professor of Development Economics in the Faculty of Regional Policy, Takasaki City University of Economics. He visited Asia Research Centre to advance research on creative industry development in the Asian region. From April 2016 to March 2017, he made presentations to the Asia Research Centre Public Seminar series, the IPAA WA Public Sector, The 13th International Conference ASIALICS 2016, Thailand and The 14th Conference of IFEAMA, Nepal.

Vice Chancellor’s visit to the Asia Research Centre

The Asia Research Centre hosted a visit by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Eeva Leinonen, on Thursday 28 July in the Asia Research Centre’s library. This was part of a general university-wide exercise of engaging with schools and research centres/institutes that the Vice Chancellor had been undertaking.

The Vice Chancellor indicated some of her thoughts about Murdoch’s direction and learnt first-hand about the Centre’s achievements, plans and challenges.
The Indonesia Research Programme (IRP) was officially launched in January 2014 to:
raise the visibility of Murdoch University with Indonesian universities and institutions in
order to encourage collaboration; broaden, intensify and coordinate Indonesia-related
engagement across Murdoch’s disciplines and schools; and to increase Indonesian
postgraduate enrolments. The Programme is an initiative by the Provost, Professor Andrew
Taggart, and supported accordingly. In 2016, Centre Fellows Dr Jacqui Baker and Dr Ian
Wilson were at the pivot of the Programme’s implementation, following Professor Vedi
Hadiz’s departure at the end of 2015.

In 2016, the Programme involved a range of initiatives with our Indonesian associates.
This included support for numerous visits to Murdoch by Indonesian academics and
government officials to strengthen relations and explore opportunities for collaboration,
as well as for Murdoch academics visiting partners in Indonesia for staff exchange,
research collaboration and exploring degree initiatives.

The number of Indonesian postgraduate enrolments at Murdoch continued to grow
in 2016, with 53 such students compared to just over 20 in 2011. Of these, the Asia
Research Centre had 15 (of its total of 28 students) compared to just 4 in 2010.

Gadjah Mada University, one of Indonesia’s most prestigious universities, remained an
important partner for Murdoch University. Murdoch Politics negotiated a 2+2
joint undergraduate degree with UGM International Relations in November 2016
and hosted two senior UGM academic staff to Murdoch to oversee the finalising
of the degree. Discussions were also well advanced between senior Murdoch staff
in the Masters of International Affairs and Security and their counterparts at UGM in
International Relations towards a 1+1 Masters in International Affairs and Security. The
programme supported five politics lecturers to give guest lectures and promote the new
undergraduate articulation at UGM, including producing a promotional video for marketing
purposes.

Other activities supported included a workshop with Atma Jaya University in Jakarta on
Publishing in Academia. This was organised by Murdoch’s Dr Kate Fitch with a view to
developing research relations with the School of Communications at Atma Jaya. Chris Smyth,
Cluster Leader of Society Communications within the School of Arts at Murdoch is to
follow up Dr Fitch’s visit to secure an MOU with Atma Jaya. Funds were also allocated to
Dr Peter Taylor from the School of Education who was invited to give a keynote speech at
the University of Medan.

The Programme continued to act as a knowledge hub for Indonesia initiatives across
the university, connecting academic staff with relevant funding, teaching and research
opportunities in Indonesia and advocating for Indonesia research and recruitment to be part
of Murdoch’s overall development strategy. The Programme established the Indonesia
Engagement Strategy Group, chaired by Professor Neil Loneragan, and attended by the
Vice Deans for International across the all schools.

The IRP also supported Murdoch’s successful bid for accreditation for postgraduate
scholarships abroad with the Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education, working on
drafts of the proposal and building networks with Indonesian authorities. In this role, IRP
staff supported Murdoch’s Vice Chancellor on the WA ministerial delegation to Indonesia,
providing background reports and strategic support.

The program also built collaborations with other Australian universities working on
Indonesia. In collaboration with the Indonesia Project at the ANU and the Asia Research
Program, the program supported the Mini-
Update on Digital Indonesia on September
19. The Mini-Update presented six academic
and activist speakers that highlighted the ways
that Indonesia’s digital revolution has not only
presented new economic opportunities, but
changed and challenged the existing socio-
political landscape. This event will be followed
in April 2017 with a roundtable analysis on
the Jakarta election with speakers from ANU
and Murdoch University.

Digital Indonesia Mini-Update. Photo by Robert Fyfe
2016 was a landmark year for Australia’s trade relations with Asia. Free trade agreements (FTAs) with China, Japan and Korea enjoyed their first full year of operation, opening new trade and investment opportunities in the agriculture and services sectors. Bilateral negotiations with India and Indonesia – two of Australia’s most important emerging trade partners – made steady progress. The shock election of Donald Trump as US President in November had led to the collapse of the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which saw attention shift to the ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement.

Centre Fellow Jeffrey Wilson played a key role in policy debates over the future of Australia’s trade policy. He consulted for the Australia-Indonesia Business Council, helping to devise negotiation strategies for the Australia-Indonesia FTA. He was called as an expert witness by two parliamentary inquiries into TPP: the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties and Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade – and his testimony was cited extensively in both inquiry reports. His work has appeared in many high-impact media outlets, including The Australian, Sydney Morning Herald, 7:30 Report and New York Times. In November, he was also the official Australian delegate to a conference on the future of the Asian trade system convened by the Korean government.

Wilson has argued Australia needs to adopt a more multilateral approach to its Asian trade relationships. Instead of pursuing bilateral FTAs with key partners, multilateral agreements such as the TPP and RCEP offer a much stronger platform for regional economic engagement. They open more opportunities in the services and agricultural sectors, enables businesses to participate in regional value chains in Asia, and give the Australian government a say in developing the rules for the regional economic architecture. As Australia’s enmeshment in Asia deepens, it is now time we fully participate in the emerging multilateral architecture for regional economic integration.
2016 was a year marked by rising political tensions in Indonesia, much of it focused around Jakarta’s governor elections. Mass mobilisations by Islamists, with the backing of some political elites, generated political pressure resulting in the laying of blasphemy charges against Jakarta’s governor. Many analysts and the media interpreted this as indicative of the rising political strength of sectarianism and religious extremism, framing the elections as a test of the country’s religious tolerance, with pluralism itself posed as under threat.

Drawing on his extensive field research in Jakarta, Centre Fellow Dr Ian Wilson made a significant and distinctive contribution to these debates over the forces driving the protests. In a widely-read piece in New Mandala on 3 November entitled ‘Making Enemies out of Friends’ he responded to the analysis of internationally respected security analyst and human rights advocate Dr Sidney Jones, arguing that the ostensive growth of sectarian sentiment, particularly among the urban poor, could be traced to the direct impacts of government policy and Indonesia’s economic trajectory. With the abandonment of the plight of the poor by progressive and secular groups, religious hardliners had captured broader discontents at rising inequality, with populist Islamist sentiment fuelled by deeper structural tensions. He also argued that alliances between the urban poor and Islamists were largely tactical, rather than ideologically driven.

Dr Wilson’s New Mandala article was read directly by over 12,500 people but then extensively circulated and debated across various traditional and social media, including among activist and academic circles within and beyond Indonesia. The article’s analysis was even the topic of several academic seminars in Indonesia widely reported on in the Indonesian press. The Indonesian version of the article has also been included in a free edited ebook, Bela Islam atau bela Oligarchy? (Defending Islam or Defending Oligarchy?). Wilson contributed additional related commentary and analysis in many high-impact national and international media outlets such as Fairfax publications, Wall Street Journal, Reuters, Voice of America, AAP, BBC, Vice News and Deutsche Welle.
Consultancies in 2016 – Jane Hutchison

In April, Dr Jane Hutchison was invited as a resource person for a two-day Asian Development Bank (ADB)/Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) workshop, New Ideas in Governance – Do They Work in Practice?, held at the ADB in Manila. The workshop drew on themes in the OECD/DAC Network on Governance (GOVNET) Governance Practitioner’s Notebook: Alternative Ideas and Approaches (2015). This publication featured a chapter by Professor Wil Hout, summarising the arguments of the book, Political Economy and the Aid Industry (2014), which he and Jane Hutchison co-wrote with Caroline Hughes and Richard Robison.

In 2016, Dr Jane Hutchison also undertook a Political Economy Analysis Consultancy for Oxfam in Myanmar. The consultancy involved running a workshop on political economy analysis for Oxfam and partner NGO staff involved in an EU-funded Social Accountability Project covering local governance in four states/regions in Myanmar. The workshop generated a series of research questions which guided subsequent field work to shape the design of the project.
New Grants in 2016

**Fisheries Research and Development Corporation**
Malcolm Tull and Neil Loneragan (with J Tweedley, M Hughes)
Golden fish: evaluating and optimising the biological, social and economic returns of small-scale fisheries
2016, $398,000

**Independent Commission Against Corruption, Hong Kong**
Ian Scott (with T Gong)
Success Factors in Corruption Prevention
2016, HK$498,885 (AUD $86,800)

**Endeavour Postgraduate Award**
Lian Sinclair
Awarded in December 2016, this scholarship covers fieldwork in Indonesia
2016, $52,000

**City University of Hong Kong**
Ian Scott (with T Gong)
Understanding Public Attitudes towards Corruption: A Tale of Three Cities
2016, HK$200,000 (AUD $34,800)

**Singapore Tote Board**
Azad Singh Bali (with H Douglas, C Vas and P Waring)
Ageing and Long-term care in Singapore
2016, S$33,000 (A$33,000)

**Competitive Collaborative Research Fund, Department of Social and Political Science, University of Gadjah Mada**
Ian Wilson (with M Hapsari, Krisdyatmiko, E Susanto, A R Albar, N L Suparlan and A M Taek,
Against deforestation: the formation of environmental movements in ASEAN
2016, $18,500

**City University of Hong Kong**
Ian Scott (with T Gong)
The Quest for Joined-up Government: Structural Relationships and the Problem of the ‘Silos’ in Hong Kong
2016, HK$100,000 (AUD $17,400)

**Australian Academy of the Social Sciences Workshop Grant**
Melissa Johnston (with M McIntyre, S Niner and M Dyer)
Women’s empowerment, microfinance and aid in the Asia Pacific: a workshop of policy-relevant findings and innovative methods
$9,000, awarded in 2016 for 2017 Workshop

**Australian Academy of the Humanities Travelling Fellowship.**
Dean Aszkielowicz
Archival Research at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington DC
2016, $2,000

**Bursary - Sydney Southeast Asia Centre’s Postgraduate Research Workshop on Engaging with policy in Southeast Asia**
Anabelle Ragsag
28-29 July 2016, $1,000

**International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS)**
Agung Wardana
Presented paper at the International Conference on Heritage as Aid and Diplomacy in Leiden, the Netherlands.
2016, A$1,300
Research Consultancy Activities

Jeffrey Wilson
Research Fellow
Perth USAsia Centre

Jane Hutchison
Governance Thematic Group Learning Event:
New Ideas in Governance – Do They Work in Practice?, Philippines
Asia Development Bank
US$5,898 (AUD $7,960)

Political Economy Analysis Consultancy for Social Accountability Project, Myanmar
Oxfam
US$5,600 (AUD $7,560)

Benjamin Reilly
Electoral system redesign for development
DFAT and the Asia Foundation
The Philippines
$7,500

Continuing Grants

Australian Research Council Discovery Project
Sandra Wilson (with R Cribb)
War Crimes and the Japanese Military, 1941-45
2015-2017, $140,600

Australian Research Council Discovery Project
Jeffrey Wilson (with M Beeson)
The Political Economy of Australia-China Economic Relations
2015-17, $154,418

Australian Research Council Discovery Project
Jane Hutchison and Ian Wilson (with C Hughes and A Rosser)
Remaking the Poor: Poor people’s responses to donors’ market citizenship programs in Southeast Asia.
2013-15, $193,088

Australian Research Council Discovery Project
James Warren (with Joseph Christensen) and a multi-country team
Pearls, People and Power: Global Commodity History and Material Culture in the Transformation of the Indian Ocean World, 16th-20th Centuries
2015-18, $438,058

Australian Research Council Linkage Project
James Warren
Hazards, Tipping Points, Adaptation and Collapse in the Indo-Pacific World, Post-1000 CE
2015–2018, $374,516

Hong Kong Research Council
Ian Scott (with T Gong, J Bacon-Shone)
Public Perceptions of Corruption in Hong Kong
2014 – 2017, HK$669,500

Australian Research Council Discovery Project
Carol Warren (with C Antons, W Logan and J Chen)
Intangible Cultural Heritage across Borders: Laws, structures and strategies in China and its ASEAN neighbours
2013-15, $300,000

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

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
Neil Loneragan and Carol Warren (with N Stacey)
Small-scale Fisheries in Indonesia: Benefits to Households, the Roles of Women and Opportunities for Improving Livelihoods
2015-2016, $150,000

Internal Grants

School of Arts Research Grant for Early Career Researchers
Dean Aszkiewicz
This grant was combined with the funds from the Travelling Fellowship for a longer stay in Washington
2016, $2,300

School of Arts Research Grant for Early Career Researchers
Arjun Subrahmanyan
Presented paper at the Association for Asian Studies conference in Canberra
2016, $1,900

School of Arts Research Grant for Early Career Researchers
Arjun Subrahmanyan
Presented paper at the Thailand Studies symposium in Sydney
2016, $2,000

Murdoch University Graduate Office’s Conference Travel Awards
Agung ‘Wardana
This grant was combined with the IIAAS’ travel grant to attend and present a paper at the Workshop on the Indonesian Village Law in Leiden, the Netherlands.
2016, $2,050

Murdoch University Graduate Office’s Conference Travel Awards
Melissa Johnston
Presented paper at the International Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, United States
2016, $2,000

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

Australian Research Council Discovery Project
Garry Rodan
Representation and Political Regimes in Southeast Asia
2010-15, $613,182

Developing aquaculture near Pulau Osi, Cerum. Photo by Professor Neil Loneragan
Awards and Honours

Muhammad Faris Al Fadhat
Elected President, Association of Indonesian Postgraduate Students and Scholars in Australia (AIPSSA)

Jacqui Baker
Sir Walter Murdoch School of Public Policy and International Affairs Teaching Award

Malcolm Tull
Appointed first non-European President of the International Maritime History Association

Jeffrey Wilson
Sir Walter Murdoch School of Public Policy and International Affairs Teaching Award

Sandra Wilson
Elected to the position of Secretary of the Asian Studies Association of Australia

Jeffrey Wilson
Appointed as Editor-in-Chief of Contemporary Politics journal. (APSA ‘A’ ranked (2016).

Photo Left to right clockwise Trainers and participants at the Crawford Master Class on “Methods for assessing data-poor fisheries” held at the Institut Pertanian Bogor International Convention Center, Emeritus Prof. Richard Robison, PhD student Vanessa Jaiteh with shark fishers and shark fins, Eviction site in North Jakarta
Current Postgraduate Students

Sait Abdulah
Topic: Post Conflict Reconstruction: Elites, welfare and women ex-combatants in Aceh Region, Indonesia
(Supervisors: Jane Hutchison, Jacqui Baker and Kevin Hewison)

Nurul Aini
Topic: Challenging the Local State: Subaltern resistance in post decentralised Yogyakarta, Indonesia
(Supervisors: Ian Wilson, Jacqui Baker and Jane Hutchison)

Muhammad Al Fadhat
Topic: The Rise of Internationalized Capital: ASEAN Economic Governance and Indonesian Conglomerates
(Supervisors: Jeffrey Wilson and Kanishka Jayasuriya)

Nicole Andres
Topic: Media-elite interactions in Post-Authoritarian Indonesia (Submitted)
(Supervisors: David Hill and Garry Rodan)

Patricia Dacudao
Topic: Abaca: the creation of a transpacific, transnational and transcultural Davao, 1898-1941
(Supervisors: James Warren and Carol Warren)

Rendro Dhanji
Topic: Political Public Relations in Indonesia During the Yudhoyono Presidency 2004-2014
(Supervisors: Kate Fitch and Terence Lee)

Diswandi Diswandi
Topic: Sustainable Community Forestry Management in Lombok, Indonesia
(Supervisors: Malcolm Tull, Carol Warren and Ranald Taylor)

Tianyi Du (Tony)
Topic: China’s search for food security and its implications for China-Australia grain trade
(Supervisors: Malcolm Tull and Anne Garrett)

Max Findley
Topic: Rationalizing Disaster: Early Modern Spanish-Filipino Dialogues on Hazard
(Supervisors: James Warren, Carol Warren and Joseph Christensen)

Jely Galang
Topic: Chinese Vagrants in the Late-Nineteenth Century Manila
(Supervisors: James Warren and Arjun Subramanyan)

Kazi Haque
Topic: The Political Economy of NGOs: Transcending of Civil Society into Market
(Supervisors: Kanishka Jayasuriya and Jane Hutchison)

Li Yi Huang
Topic: Importing Ideas: The function of policy transfer network - whale-watching ecolabel in Taiwan
(Supervisors: Yvonne Haigh, Ian Cook and Diane Lee)

Asep Iqbal
Topic: Islamic Cyberactivism: Internet and the Salafi Movement in Indonesia (Submitted)
(Supervisors: David Hill and Garry Rodan)

Irwansyah Irwansyah
Topic: Political Economy of Local Labour Conflict during Decentralization Period in Indonesia
(Supervisors: Jane Hutchison and Ian Wilson)
Vanessa Jaiteh  
Topic: “Sharks are important, but so is rice”: Opportunities and challenges for shark fisheries management and livelihoods in eastern Indonesia  
(Supervisors: Neil Loneragan and Carol Warren)

Melissa Johnston  
Topic: The 'Local Turn' in International Development: Implications for women and resource distribution in Timor-Leste and West Timor  
(Supervisors: Jane Hutchison, Carol Warren and Ian Wilson)

Jasmine Kaur  
Topic: Evaluating Port Reform in Indonesia using the Matching Framework: A case study of the ports of Tanjung Priok and Tanjung Emas  
(Supervisors: Malcolm Tull and Ranald Taylor)

Elaine Llarena  
Topic: Crisis and Risk Communication in Response to Zoonotic Emerging Infectious Diseases in Southeast Asia  
(Supervisors: Anne Surma, Garry Rodan, Kate Fitch, John Edwards)

Rebecca Meckelburg  
Topic: Fragmented activism: Understanding lower class political agency in rural post-Suharto Indonesia  
(Supervisors: Carol Warren and Ian Wilson)

Ma. Theresa R. Milallos  
Topic: The Political Ecology of Disaster and the Problematique of Social Transformation: The case of the 1991 Ormoc tragedy in the Philippines (Submitted)  
(Supervisors: Jim Warren and Carol Warren)

Charlotte Minh Ha Pham  
Topic: A Maritime Cultural Landscape of Cochinchina: The South China Sea, maritime routes, navigation and boats in pre-colonial central Vietnam (Submitted)  
(Supervisors: Jim Warren, Wendy Van Duivenvoorde and Jeremy Green)

Anabelle Ragsag  
Topic: Exploring the Directions of the Conditional Cash Transfer Program in the Philippines  
(Supervisors: Jane Hutchison and Garry Rodan)

Vivanti Rambe  
Topic: Reinventing the Keys to a Sustainable Rural Development: Diversity and complexity in mainstreaming natural resources management within community driven development programs in Sulawesi, Indonesia  
(Supervisor: Carol Warren)

Hikmawan Saefulhak  
Topic: Undergraduate music scene and Islamic politics in Post-Authoritarian Indonesia  
(Supervisors: Ian Wilson and Jacqui Baker)

Muningar Saraswati  
Topic: Social Network Sites and Election Campaigns in Contemporary Indonesia  
(Submitted)  
(Supervisors: David Hill and Vedi Hadiz)

Lian Sinclair  
Topic: Undermining Conflict: mining and participatory conflict management in Indonesia  
(Supervisors: Jane Hutchison, Garry Rodan and Shahar Hameiri)

Tri Rainny Syafarani  
Topic: Policy Entrepreneurship in Indonesia  
(Supervisors: Yvonne Haigh, Jacqui Baker and Carol Warren)

Chu Minh Thao  
Topic: Vietnam’s International Trade Policymaking  
(Supervisors: Jeffrey Wilson and Garry Rodan)

Vitti Valenzuela  
Topic: The Politics of Reform in Socialized Housing: The Kaantabay sa Kauswagan Program of Naga City, the Philippines  
(Supervisors: Jane Hutchison and Carol Warren)

Agung Wardana  
Topic: "Law, Space and Development: Contested Space and Governance in Contemporary Bali"  
(Submitted)  
(Supervisors: Carol Warren, Jacqui Baker and Jo Goodie)

Lisa Woodward  
Topic: Understanding the impacts of vulnerability and social protection policies on the lives and future directions of young people in rural households in Indonesia  
(Supervisors: Carol Warren and Anja Reid)

MPhil student  
Paul van Nimwegen

PhD Completions  
Airlangga Prabadi Kusman  
Topic: Local Power and Good Governance in Post Authoritarian Indonesia: The case of Surabaya (conferred 17 May)  
(Supervisors: Vedi Hadiz and Shahar Hameiri)
Publications

**Authored Books**

Xiaowen Tian  

**Edited Books**

Joseph Christensen  
(with G Bankoff) Natural Hazards and Peoples in the Indian Ocean World: Bordering on Danger, Palgrave Macmillan.

Terence Lee  

Terence Lee  

Ian Scott  
(with T Gong) Routledge Handbook of Corruption in Asia, Routledge.

Punk kids in Jakarta. Photo by Dr Ian Wilson
Book Chapters

Dean Aszkiełowicz


Azad Bali


Yingchi Chu

Joseph Christensen


Rajat Ganguly


Terence Lee


Greg Lopez

Samuel Makinda

Victoria Mason

Benjamin Reilly


Ian Scott


James Warren
‘Philippine Typhoons Since the Seventeenth Century’ in G Bankoff and J Christensen (eds) Natural Hazards and Peoples in the Indian Ocean World, Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 105-142.

Jeffrey Wilson
Peer Refereed Journal Articles

Azad Bali

Yingchi Chu

David Hill

Jane Hutchison


Vanessa Jaiteh

(with S Lindfield, S Mangubhai, C Warren, B Fitzpatrick and N Loneragan) ‘Higher abundance of Marine Predators and changes in fishers’ behavior following spatial protection within the world’s biggest shark fishery’, Frontiers in Marine Science http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2016.00043

Samuel Makinda


Victoria Mason

Takeshi Moriyama
‘Study in Edo: Shibata Shuzo (1820–59) and Student Life in Late Tokugawa Japan’, East Asia History, 40: 27-50.

Charlotte Minh Ha Pham
‘European navigation and charting of the Cochinchinese coast (16th -19th centuries)’, Moussons, 27, 1: 101-129.

Benjamin Reilly


Garry Rodan

Fabio Scarpello
‘The partial turn to politics in plural policing studies’, Contemporary Politics, 22, 1: 114-123.

Xiaowen Tian


Malcolm Tull

Agung Wardana

Carol Warren


James Warren

Jeffrey Wilson
Other Publications, including op-eds and other media publications

Jacqui Baker
Podcasts
‘Middle class president’, New Mandala, 5 August.


‘Democratic Updates’, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, The University of Sydney, July 29 Monthly Digest for the Indonesia Council.

Joseph Christensen
PEARLING'S OBJECTS, INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNITIES', History Australia, 13,1: 172-73.


Jely Galang

Vanessa Jaiteh

Kanishka Jayasuriya
Ideas boom or innovation bust: Could Australia’s ideas agenda stifle real innovation? APS policy forum. https://www.policyforum.net/ideas-boom-or-innovation-bust/ and republished on the LSE’s Impact blog http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2016/05/04/ideas-boom-or-innovation-bust-australias-ideas-agenda/

Melissa Johnston

Terence Lee
(with S Leong) ‘Malaysia disconnecting from online freedoms’, East Asia Forum, 18 March.

Neil Loneragan
Meeting of Council of the Asian Fisheries Society, April 2016, Bangkok, Thailand.

Benjamin Reilly

Richard Robison
‘Why Indonesia Will Not be Asia’s Next Giant.’ Indonesia at Melbourne, 15/07/2016.

Garry Rodan
‘The PAP’s Tightening Grip on Singapore’, East Asia Forum, 28 September.

Fabio Scarpello
Quasi Venti Anni dopo Reformasi, Problemi Persistono per Aceh e Papua (Almost Twenty Years since Reformasi, Indonesia’s Aceh and Papua still Troubled), RISE - Relazioni Internazionali e International political economy del Sud-Est asiatico, February 2017.


Malcolm Tull

Ian Wilson
‘Making enemies out of friends’, New Mandala, 3 November.

Out of the rubble’, Indonesia at Melbourne, 4 October.


Jeffrey Wilson

‘Can the Trans-Pacific Partnership multilateralise the ‘noodle bowl’ of Asia-Pacific trade agreements?’ Perth USAsia Centre Strategic Insight Series, April 2016.

Jeffrey Wilson
Appointed as Editor-in-Chief of Contemporary Politics journal. (APSA ‘A’ ranked (2016); JCR: 5-yr IF 0.993, Rank 70/161 in Political Science (2015); SCImago: SJR 0.544, Rank 94/404 in Political Science and International Affairs (2015).
Public Lectures, Conference, Seminar and Workshop Presentations

Sait Abdullah
‘Hegemonic masculinity and the rise of a new local political and economic elite in Post conflict Aceh’, Oceanic Conference on International Studies, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 6 - 8 July.

Muhammad Faris Al Fadhat

Dean Aszkiewicz

Jacqui Baker
Digital Indonesia: Indonesia Update Workshop, held with Indonesia Research Program and Australian National University, Murdoch University, 19 September.

‘Katayama Hideo’, 30th annual Murdoch address to the Melville Historical Society, Melville Historical Society, Perth, 19 September.

Azad Bali


(with M Ramesh) ‘First, Do No Harm: A Diagnostic Approach to Policy Formulation’, 24th World Congress of the International Political Science Association, Poznan, Poland, 23-28 July.

(with M Asher) ‘Creating Fiscal Space to Pay for Pension Expenditure: A Framework’, 4th EPS International Workshop at Renmin University, University, China, 2 July.

Joseph Christensen


Yingchi Chu
‘Self-hybridization: Going out with Chinese Characteristics’, China Road, University of Newcastle, 13-15 August.

Jely Galang
‘Chinese in the Late-Nineteenth Century Manila’, Chinese in the Philippines: New Studies Conference, Current Issues, Future Directions Conference, Ricardo and Dr. Rosita Leong Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, 12-13 January.

Jane Hutchison
‘Power, Politics and Positive Deviance: Developmental Leadership Program Annual Conference’, Invited Panelist, La Trobe University, Victoria, 8 February.

David Hill

Vanessa Jaiteh

Kanishka Jayasuriya

Melissa Johnston
‘Banking on Women: Microfinance in in the Liberal Peace’, Oceanic Conference for International Studies, University of Queensland, Queensland, 4-6 July.


Neil Loneragan
(with A Hordyk, V Jaiteh and C Warren) ‘Assessing fisheries when data are scarce: a case study of sharks in eastern Indonesia’, Presentation to Masters and PhD students at Bogor Agriculture University, Java, Indonesia, 28 November.


(with A Hordyk, V Jaiteh and C Warren) ‘Assessing fisheries when data are scarce: a case study of sharks in eastern Indonesia’, Invited presentation to researchers and students at the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Muara Baru, Jakarta, Indonesia, 20 July.

Livelhoods and gender in small scale fisheries of Indonesia’, ACIAR project workshop, Senggigi, Lombok, Indonesia, 20 to 24 November.

Samuel Makinda

‘Re-Evaluating Eclecticism in International Relations Theory’, 7th Oceanic Conference on International Studies, Brisbane, 4-6 July.

Takeshi Moriyama

‘19-seiki zenhan no shakai henka to henkyo eno chi no nagare: Sadojin Shibata Shuzo no doku sho to yugaku, chizu seisaku’ (Social changes and knowledge flow to peripheries in the early 19th century: Reading, learning and mapmaking of Shibata Shuzo, Sado; in Japanese), 23rd Nichibunken (International Research Center for Japanese Studies) International Symposium, University of Otago, Dunedin, 24 November.

‘Hibonna sei o ikita Tokugawa-ki no heintachi: Chiriagakusha Shibata Shuzo (1820-59) no baai o chushinmiri’ (Uncommon lives of Tokugawa-period commoners: Geographer Shibata Shuzo 1820-59 and others; in Japanese), Gakushuin University International Hall, Tokyo, 16 November.

‘Chihominzoku no kijutsu: “chushin” to “shuen” no inta akushon toshite no Suzuki Bokushi “Hokutesu seppu” to “Akiyamakimo”’ (Writing about rural culture: Analysing Suzuki Bokushi’s Hokutesu seppu and ‘Akiyama kiko’ as interaction between “centre” and “periphery”; in Japanese), 2016 Collaborative Workshop of La Maison Franco Japonaise, Kokugakuin University and Toyo Bunko kiko as interaction between “centre” and “periphery”; in Japanese).

Charlotte Minh Ha Pham


Benjamin Reilly


‘Democratic design and democratic reform’, Sir Samuel Griffith Conference on A People’s Federation for the 21st Century, Griffith University, Brisbane, 18 June.

The Region that Ate Theory: Modernization and Democratization in East Asia’, Asia Research Centre public lecture, Murdoch University, 8 March.


Richard Robison

‘How Economic Policy has been shaped by Conflicts over Power and Wealth in Post-Soeharto Indonesia’, Conference Plenary Session, Reflections on Two Decades of Governance and Economic Reform in Indonesia, University of Melbourne Asia Institute, 3–4 November.

‘Why Indonesia Will Not be Asia’s Next Giant’, Seminar Presentation, University of Melbourne Asia Institute, 5 July.

Garry Rodan

‘New Modes of Participation in Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia’, American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, 31 August – 4 September.

Ian Scott

‘Bottom-up approaches to corruption in Asia’, Fourth International Asian Studies Conference, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, 11 June.

Lian Sinclair


‘Resource Nationalism and Neoliberalism, the Case of Indonesia’s Mineral and Coal Mining Laws’, Australian International Political Economy Network, University of Tasmania, Hobart, 2 February.

Arjun Subrahmanyan


Xiaowen Tian

‘Employee involvement in decision-making: The more the better?’, Symposium of Social Identity in the Workplace and Employee Engagement, Australian Catholic University, Sydney, 3–4 November.


Agung Wardana


‘Conserving Cultural Heritage in the Neoliberal Times of Bali’, International Conference on Heritage as Aid and Diplomacy, IIAS (The Netherlands), ISEAS (Singapore), and Institute of Sociology Academia Sinica (Taiwan), in Leiden, the Netherlands, 26–28 May.


Carol Warren


(C with N Stacey and N Loneragan) ‘Small-scale fisheries in Indonesia: benefits to households, the roles of women, and opportunities for improving livelihoods’, 6th Gender and Fisheries Symposium, AFAF, Bangkok, 6 August.

‘Coastal Community Environmental Issues in Bali - Perancak Case Study’, 1st ACIAR workshop on Small Scale Fisheries - Gender and Household Livelihoods projects, Denpasar, Bali 16 - 19 February.

James Warren
‘The Weather Factor: China Sea Typhoons and Tales by Joseph Conrad’, Keynote, To the Seas and Beyond: An International Conference on the History of the Maritime Silk Road’, Hong Kong Museum of History and Hong Kong Baptist University, 16-18 December.


‘Climate , Weather and Pestilence in the Philippines since the 16th Century’, Disease Dispersion and Impact in the Indian Ocean World, Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC), McGill University, 23-24 September.


Ian Wilson
‘The politics of protection rackets’, Politics and Governance Department, University of Gadjah Mada, 9 December.


Jeffrey Wilson


The ‘new bilateralism’ in the Asia-Pacific trade system: Economic and security drivers. Seminar for the National Asian Security Studies Program (NASSP), UNSW ADFA, 10 November.

Sandra Wilson
‘War Crimes and Executive Prerogative’, 35th Annual Australia and New Zealand Law and History Society Conference, Curtin University, Perth, 5-6 December.

‘Indian Prisoners and the Japanese Military in Southeast Asia’, Sixth Japanese History Workshop, University of Auckland, Auckland, 2-4 December


‘Why Were There No War Crimes Trials After the Korean War?’, Murdoch University History Seminar Series, Perth, 12 October.


‘Did Siberia Make a Difference? War Crimes, the Japanese Military, and the Siberian Intervention, 1918-1922’, Russian History Reading Group, University of WA, Perth, 18 March.
On Saturday 10 December 2016, former Murdoch University colleague George Aditjondro passed away at age 70, four years after having suffered a stroke. Following the completion of his PhD at Cornell University, George wrote at least ten books and over one hundred articles and book chapters. He consistently spoke truth to power, which earned him widespread respect. It also brought him under pressure in Indonesia from very powerful people in government, business and the military at different stages of his life. Throughout his career, George was especially significant in exposing and challenging corruption, not least as it involved environmental destruction, and was an early supporter of Timorese independence.

George taught at Satya Wacana Christian University in Salatiga, Central Java but came to Australia after concerns about his safety in Indonesia. This move was made possible by the pooling of funds from the Asia Research Centre and various researchers holding grants within it at Murdoch University. His brief time at Murdoch in the mid-1990s was hugely stimulating for colleagues and students alike. His lectures combined deep intellectual insights on Indonesian politics and suitably illustrative empirical material with a charismatic delivery style. Meanwhile, George continued significant academic work and media contributions on Indonesian politics. This included his observations in 1994 about the death toll in East Timor after Indonesian troops landed there, first published in *The West Australian*.

While at Murdoch, George wrote an Asia Research Centre Working Paper (no. 58, 1995), ‘Bali, Jakarta’s Colony: Social and ecological impacts of Jakarta-based conglomerates in Bali’s tourism industry’. He also wrote Large Dam Victims and their Defenders: the emergence of an anti-dam movement in Indonesia’, analysing one of the most notorious cases under the Suharto regime of displacement of rural villagers. This was published in *The Politics of Environment in Southeast Asia* (1998), jointly edited by Centre colleagues at the time Carol Warren and Phil Hirsch. George subsequently took up a post at the University of Newcastle before returning to Indonesia, having spent a total of seven years in Australia. Among his subsequent books was *Dissecting Cikaes Octopus: Behind the Scene of the Bank Century Scandal*.

Former colleagues at Murdoch are saddened by George’s passing and grateful that his talent, courage and endearing personality made such a contribution to the understanding of Indonesian politics and causes of social justice. We were privileged to have had him in our midst. Vale George Aditjondro.
Disclaimer

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