STATE, SOCIETY & GOVERNANCE IN MELANESIA PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs
ANU College of Asia & the Pacific
MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENOR

2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program’s establishment and the 70th anniversary of Pacific studies at the Australian National University (ANU). On 1 August 1946, the Bill establishing ANU was passed by the Australian Parliament, and with it the Research School of Pacific Studies (RSPacS) was founded.

Understanding Australia’s place in the region is core to the ANU mission. According to Raymond Firth, a member of the Academic Advisory Committee which oversaw the establishment of the four foundational Research Schools, RSPacS was founded in the immediate post-war period to counter Australia’s “immense ignorance of the Pacific”. Firth’s early ‘vision’ of RSPacS was that “of an organisation geared to the systematic extension of knowledge”. Such knowledge was considered essential “to the conduct of the Australian affairs regionally”.

Those presiding over the establishment of the university held fast to the view that ANU academics should be mindful of government interests but that government officials should not drive the research agenda. Indeed “the importance of university freedom was well recognized”. Writing in 1996 to mark the 50th anniversary of Pacific Studies at ANU, Firth described the “huge array of research projects undertaken in co-operation with government, public institutions and other universities” as a “sign of maturity” and “a rich fulfillment” of the Commonwealth Government’s ambitions for its national university.

Established in 1996 and funded in partnership by ANU and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program (SSGM) takes forward the ANU mandate, whilst offering a model for how cutting-edge research and public policy engagement can be successfully reconciled and mutually enhancing. SSGM’s establishment reaffirmed awareness that the countries in our immediate region continue to be vital to Australia’s strategic, economic and political interests, and was intended to stem declining interest in and scholarship on the Pacific.

Over the past few years, SSGM has operated in a particularly dynamic international development policy and aid context in Australia. Following the start of its current funding agreement with DFAT in 2013, the program experienced a period of significant growth, both in terms of the numbers of academic and professional staff and PhD scholars, as well as the number and range of its research, research capacity building and outreach activities. Notwithstanding the considerable support SSGM continues to receive from the Australian Government, this financial year the program experienced a reduction in its annual budget from DFAT, reflecting the substantial reductions to Australia’s aid budget over the past three years. The decrease in our annual budget saw the departure of seven SSGM scholars who had been working on a range of issues relevant to contemporary Melanesia. It also led to the consolidation of our core research program around six priority areas.

Despite the turbulence brought about by staff losses, SSGM undertook exciting new research and consolidated existing research across the region in each of our priority research areas. In addition we delivered new and ongoing research capacity building activities, and continued to communicate the findings of our work to an ever growing audience. Highlights included: the launch of the Building a Pathway for Successful Land Reform in Solomon Islands report at a national land conference in Honiara, hosted by the Solomon Islands Government and opened by Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare; hosting the third annual State of the Pacific, which was again opened by Foreign Minister Hon Julie Bishop MP; progressing a new body of research on urbanisation in Melanesia, with a focus on Honiara; taking the Pacific Research Colloquium concept to the region by delivery training in research methods for public servants in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Vanuatu; undertaking comprehensive observation of the 2016 Samoan national general elections; and formalising a number of new research collaborations with partners throughout the region, including the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), and the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

In the immediate post-war period ANU quickly established itself as the leading institution for research and education concerning the Pacific, and played a key role in seeding and developing research and tertiary institutions throughout the region. We remain committed to and excited by the many opportunities to generate and communicate evidence to inform better policy making in and on the region.

Now more than at any time in ANU’s 70 year history, Australia needs to be well informed and engaged with the significant geopolitical transitions and the social, cultural and environmental challenges facing our region. It also needs to contribute to and support the efforts that poorly resourced Pacific institutions are making to train researchers and better understand growing regional vulnerabilities. Understanding Australia’s place in the region continues to drive the SSGM research agenda.

This report contains an overview of our work in financial year 2015/16. I thank all those who support our work.

Associate Professor Nicole Haley
Convenor
State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program

2 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
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Established in 1996 and funded in partnership by DFAT and ANU, SSGM is the leading international centre for applied multidisciplinary research and analysis concerning contemporary Melanesia and the broader Pacific. Situated within the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, SSGM seeks to set the international standard for scholarship on the region. SSGM is funded by DFAT to undertake policy-relevant research and broader analytical work to underpin better informed policy-making; to provide expertise on a broad range of strategic foreign, economic, trade and development issues in the Pacific; to train and nurture the next generation of Pacific scholars; to support the development of a cadre of scholars, practitioners and regional leaders; to communicate research findings to the policy community; and to foster regional partnerships and deepen community awareness of Pacific policy issues.

As of June 2016, SSGM comprises 64 research active scholars, with a staffing profile of 21 academic staff bolstered by 13 emeriti or honorary appointees and 30 PhD scholars. SSGM’s strengths lie in the critical mass of expertise and knowledge that it contains; in its physical proximity to government; in the policy relevance of its research; and in its extensive networks throughout the region. Through its programs, SSGM contributes to evidence-based policy making and to positive processes of economic, social and political change in the region.

Scholars within our three research clusters work collaboratively to undertake research in six core areas:

- Urbanisation, Land and Resources
- Politics and Governance
- The Politics of Service Delivery
- Gender
- Autonomous Region of Bougainville, PNG
- Pacific Regionalism

SSGM has an exemplary track record of research capacity building focussed not only on academic researchers, but also upon practitioners and local civil society actors. Situated at ANU—Australia’s pre-eminent research training institution—SSGM is uniquely positioned to lead on research capacity building in the region. SSGM staff teach into the only Pacific Studies Degree in the country, convene the Pasifika Australia Outreach Program as well as the Conflict and Development Specialisation within the Masters of Applied Anthropology and Development, and boast the largest and fastest growing Pacific-focused doctoral program anywhere in the world.

SSGM staff are committed to research capacity building and take very seriously our mandate to train and nurture the next generation of Pacific scholars. We also have considerable experience delivering policy briefings and conducting pre-departure advice and training for DFAT officers, contracted advisors, and other development practitioners.

Since October 2013 the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) has been co-located with and operated by SSGM, resulting in benefits to both SSGM and CDI, including a strengthened research-policy-programming nexus. Frequent and regular interaction between SSGM scholars and CDI program staff has encouraged collaboration and provided opportunities for research to contribute to evidenced-based policy making and enhanced program design.

SSGM’s Policy Hub, staffed by three Senior Policy Fellows, is founded upon the same operational principles, thereby enabling SSGM to play a strong policy coordination role in the region by undertaking analytical work for, and providing authoritative advice to, key implementing partners seeking to tailor innovative program designs to local aid program needs.
Pacific Island cities have some of the most rapid rates of urbanisation in the world, attracting rural migrants, particularly youth, in search of a better life. Within these cities significant political and social transformations are occurring. How well these transformational processes are handled will determine whether Pacific cities become drivers of economic growth and development, or sources of social unrest. Attempts to put urbanisation on the development agenda in the region have often failed to gain political traction, reflecting sensitivities about urban land settlement and development, rural-urban migration, foreign workers, service shortfalls and cultural change. But urbanisation continues to accelerate; it is a permanent regional dynamic. Making cities work is a regional imperative that requires governments, communities, donors and researchers to put them squarely on the agenda. SSGM's research on urban development and governance contributes to a better understanding of the challenges faced by urban communities, governments and donors in the region, and how these challenges might be addressed.

In 2015/16 SSGM, led by Meg Keen and in collaboration with CDI, expanded its urbanisation in Melanesia research program, with a strong focus on Honiara—one of the most rapidly growing cities in the region. Through participatory and action research approaches, SSGM scholars worked together with people living in Pacific cities to map out place-specific challenges and opportunities. In Honiara, we worked collaboratively with planners, officials, business people and communities to define principles and pathways to relieve growing pressures on urban environments and improve living spaces and livelihoods. We conducted focus group discussions with the Honiara-based Land-Use Management Sector group, and the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as over 20 key informant interviews, as part of our research investigations into urban challenges and opportunities.

We commenced a partnership with World Vision Solomon Islands to work together in three urban communities to better define settlers' priorities for improving living standards and livelihoods in informal settlements. The partnership involves a number of SSGM scholars, including Jenny Munro, Meg Keen, Dan Evans, and Jessica Carpenter. SSGM scholars also worked collaboratively with the Solomon Islands Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to develop our understanding of urban fish markets and the valuable role they play in strengthening urban-rural linkages and revenue flows.

To enrich our, and policy-makers’, understanding of urban issues in Melanesia we undertook case studies of urbanisation in Suva, Port Vila and Port Moresby, mainly to draw out the lessons for Honiara and to lay the foundations for future research. This involved research partnerships with colleagues based at USP. These studies identified useful lessons about urban land management, public housing, and urban governance. Jenny Munro also conducted research on the experiences of West Papuan refugees living in settlements in Port Moresby, the findings of which will be published in an SSGM In Brief in early 2016/17. In other research on Port Moresby settlements, PhD scholar Michelle Rooney continued her doctoral research on relationships between space and value systems and their influence on the political economy of urban informal settlement livelihoods in the city. In early 2016 Michelle joined ANU's Development Policy Centre as a Research Fellow, working for the Centre's partnership with the University of PNG (UPNG). John Cox attended the 2015 European Society for Oceanists conference held in Brussels in June 2015, and later published a SSGM In Brief on a day-long session on Urban Melanesia, convened by two eminent anthropologists: Lamont Lindstrom and Christine Jourdan.

As a part of its research collaboration with CDI on the politics of urbanisation, SSGM scholars used participatory and action research approaches to shed light on how urban communities are governed and how they organise to shape their urban environments. The research, led by Julien Barbara and Meg Keen, aims to provide
information on the political systems governing urban communities, how urban communities are organised politically and the strategies urban communities deploy to advance their policy interests.

Our research has generated considerable interest and is filling a gap in both policy and academic spaces. In April 2016 we presented preliminary research findings at the Australian Association for Pacific Studies where ANU hosted a Pacific urbanisation panel with our researchers reporting on urban youth issues: Port Moresby urban settlement challenges, and urban transformations in Honiara. In June, we were asked to present our research at Solomon Islands’ National Urban Conference for urban policy-makers, and in July at the RMIT Pacific Urban Seminar. While the research is not yet complete, we are examining issues related to: political biases hindering urban development; business priorities for stronger urban economic development; issues of exclusion affecting informal settlements and opportunities for engagement; urban youth needs; and civil society challenges and leverage points when engaging with policymakers. SSGM is using its In Brief and Discussion Paper series to produce timely reports on the research prior to the publication of a final report in 2016/17.

In 2016/17 we will continue the urban research work to inform the report on urbanisation in Honiara and hold workshops to disseminate the findings. We also plan to partner with CDI to convene a workshop with urban professionals from around Melanesia to share experiences and explore regional lessons for better managing rapid urban growth. We now have two doctoral students advancing new work on urban issues—Dan Evans is working on urban youth issues in Honiara and Mary Walta is working on peri-urban settlements in Port Moresby. We feel there is still much work to be done on urbanisation in Melanesia, including the generation of more research-based evidence. We will pay particular attention to processes for leveraging cities to be stronger drivers of national development and connectivity and the ways in which the informal economy in urban areas can be better supported to expand livelihood options, especially for marginalised groups.
Extractive resource industries, and land and natural resources more broadly, are both keys to the development of Melanesia and sources of potential and actual violent conflict. In a region where the vast majority of people continue to reside in rural areas, livelihoods are largely dependent on the exploitation of land and natural resources. Moreover, over the past several decades both PNG and Solomon Islands have become heavily dependent upon large-scale extractive resource industries; while Vanuatu has experienced a “land grab” fuelled by foreign investment. Both in Melanesia and in the wider Pacific region, fisheries continue to provide critical export income, and there is growing interest in deep-sea mining. The conflicts in Bougainville and Solomon Islands clearly demonstrate that enclave resource developments have the potential to exacerbate existing spatial inequalities, create new divisions and intensify tensions between groups and actors at different scales. Important emerging research and policy agendas in the natural resources space include the rise of Chinese investment in the extractive resource sectors of Melanesia, the role of private sector actors in the provision of governance and security, artisanal and small-scale mining, and the “blue economy”.

SSGM’s extensive work in this area examines the broad social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts of resource and land developments and the complex local and global dynamics that surround them. While much research has been conducted on the relationships amongst land, resources and conflict, including by SSGM scholars, they still remain poorly understood. Maximising the benefits and minimising the costs (including violent conflict) of the region’s “resource curse” remain critically important policy agendas for PNG, including Bougainville, and Solomon Islands; and the reform of customary land is a key public policy issue throughout Melanesia. At the regional level, the management of oceans resources—encompassing fisheries and deep-sea mining—has also become a focus of policy attention. SSGM aims to support these policy agendas by conducting rigorous, grounded and theoretically informed research—often in partnership with donors, communities, NGOs and governments in the region—and effectively communicating the findings to a wide range of audiences. We have a number of active research and policy engagement activities on land, resources and conflict.

In 2015/16 SSGM scholars, led by Meg Keen and Sinclair Dinnen, commenced a significant new initiative in collaboration with USP and PIFS focusing on the future of oceans management in the South Pacific. Following preliminary meetings in Suva in May 2016, a two-day workshop has been scheduled for December 2016 with the aim of identifying gaps in knowledge and opportunities for collaborative work and policy engagement.

Matthew Allen continued his research on the political economy of large-scale mining in Bougainville and Solomon Islands, supported by Australian Research Council (ARC) grant funding. Anthony Regan and Griffith University’s Ciaran O’Faircheallaigh furthered research on small scale and illegal mining in Bougainville. Significant fieldwork was carried out for each of these projects in 2015/16, in conjunction with local researchers. Kylie McKenna also continued her research on the intersections between corporate social responsibility, extractive industries, resource conflict and peace-building, and had a revised version of her thesis, which explored these issues in Bougainville and West Papua, published by Routledge as Corporate Social Responsibility and National Resource Conflict.

In November 2015 Timothy Sharp conducted fieldwork as part of an ACIAR-funded, Curtin University-led, research project aimed at strengthening livelihoods for food security amongst cocoa and oil palm farming communities in PNG. Tim worked closely with researchers from the PNG Coconut and Cocoa Institute and the PNG Oil Palm Research Association. The fieldwork focused on marketplaces in both East New Britain and West New Britain, and particularly on the domestic trade of dry coconuts.

Four of our PhD scholars conducted fieldwork in this thematic area during 2015/16: Meabh Cryan continued to investigate the political economy of land reform in Timor Leste; Lincy Pendeverana worked on oil palm and village livelihoods in Solomon Islands; Shaun Gessler continued to investigate the social impacts of the Chinese-owned Ramu Nickel mine in PNG; and Anita Togolo continued to explore avenues of access to minerals in customary land by small-scale miners in Bougainville and policy options for regulating access. In early 2016 Mona Matepi commenced doctoral research with SSGM on the political economy of sea-bed mining in the Pacific region, contributing to our collaborative research on the topic.
A key activity in the land reform space was the presentation of the Building a Pathway for Successful Land Reform in Solomon Islands report, authored by ANU’s Siobhan McDonnell with contributions from Joseph Foukona, who is soon to complete his doctoral research with ANU’s School of Culture History and Language, and Solomon Islands researcher, Alice Pollard. The report was launched at a national land conference in Honiara in August 2015, which was opened by Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare. It was based on research and consultations undertaken by SSGM earlier in the year, in partnership with DFAT and the Solomon Islands Government. Also in the land space, Matt Allen and Siobhan McDonnell, in collaboration with Colin Filer from ANU’s Crawford School, submitted a major edited volume on contemporary land issues in Melanesia to ANU Press, with publication anticipated in late 2016.

Our two projects on mining, while still in progress, have generated significant findings to date. As discussed in more detail over the page, in May 2016 the first extended research report from the ADRAS supported research project on small-scale mining in Bougainville was published. Also discussed in more detail over the page, the project on the political economy of large-scale mining in Bougainville and Solomon Islands produced significant findings. This includes the finding that the contentious and potentially violent politics engendered by large-scale mining projects are particularly intense in island settings and that policy responses need to be tailored accordingly.

The research findings were presented to the Solomon Islands Inter-Ministerial Task Force overseeing a major review of mining policy and legislation in March 2016; and the research is informing SSGM’s ongoing engagement with World Bank support to this and other activities in the Solomon's mining sector.

SSGM’s research activities across this thematic area continue to produce a steady stream of reports, SSGM Discussion Papers and In Briefs, and scholarly publications. Some of our research findings were presented at panel at the 2015 State of the Pacific conference on extractive industries, conflict and peace.

Whilst at different stages of the research cycle, all of the research and engagement activities outlined above are ongoing. In 2016/17 we envisage further fieldwork, workshops, publications, and policy outreach and engagement. In addition to the projects mentioned above, Bryant Allen will undertake extensive fieldwork in two villages in East Sepik Province, PNG, where he first conducted fieldwork in 1971 and 1972 as a part of his doctoral research. The purpose of Bryant’s upcoming fieldwork is to examine the impact of population increases on land use and land tenure. The remaining knowledge gaps for each sub-theme of our research on resources and conflict vary, but overall the resource curse continues to be a wicked public policy problem that will continue to require sustained attention.
Small-Scale Mining in Bougainville: Impacts and Policy Responses

In May 2016 an extended research report, *Small-Scale Mining in Bougainville: Impacts and Policy Responses*, was published. It presents interim findings from the ADRAS funded Small-scale (SSM) and Illegal Mining in Bougainville: Impacts and Policy Responses project, which commenced in 2014 and is led by Griffith University’s Ciaran O’Faircheallaigh in partnership with Anthony Regan. Although the research project continues, the report was compiled to present substantial information already collected of relevance and interest to researchers and a range of stakeholders who are directly involved in SSM in Bougainville.

Drawing on field research conducted during the period from 2014 to 2016, the report provides a high-level but comprehensive review of the current status of the (less than 20 year-old) SSM industry in post-conflict Bougainville. It focuses on the location of SSM activity and the modes of production and methods of mining used; the identity of miners, the nature of their participation in SSM and the economic motivations driving them; the wider economic networks created by SSM; and the risks associated with SSM, including safety, health, cultural, environmental risks, and the possibility that SSM might foster tensions in still-fragile post-conflict Bougainville. The report concludes with a discussion of informal mechanisms for regulating SSM, and a review of a unique policy and regulatory response to SSM introduced by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) in 2015.

The authors of the report argue that despite the comparatively brief history of SSM in Bougainville, its experience is highly relevant to a number of issues that arise, and in some cases receive inadequate attention, in the international SSM literature. These include the critical matter of how small-scale miners gain access to land and minerals, and the economic, social and cultural implications of the ways in which they do so; and how local knowledge and governance capacity can be mobilised to help regulate a form of mining that is highly dynamic and typically occurs in remote areas far from administrative centres.

*Small-Scale Mining in Bougainville: Impacts and Policy Responses - Interim report on research findings*
May 2016
Ciaran O’Faircheallaigh, Anthony Regan, Dennis Kikira and Simon Kenema
Principles to Inform Mining Policy in Solomon Islands

On 17 March 2016 Matt Allen made a presentation to the Solomon Islands Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Mining, which is charged with undertaking a major review of mining policy and legislation, with support from the World Bank. The presentation, Principles to Inform Mining Policy in Solomon Islands, drew upon Matt’s research on the political economy of large-scale mining in Solomon Islands and Bougainville, supported by an ARC grant.

The presentation highlighted a number of key mining policy imperatives. These include: providing a greater role for provincial governments in decision-making and benefit sharing; ensuring that all people in mine affected areas, as well as those in non-mining areas of the island/province, receive benefits of some sort; redressing asymmetries of information and advice; curtailing political influence in decision-making; ensuring the bone fides of corporate actors/investors; landowner identification and the governance of landowner structures; and increasing learning from PNG, including Bougainville. One of these policy imperatives—redressing asymmetries of information and advice—has already been taken up in a separate but related activity: a World Bank-funded Scoping Study for a Natural Resources Independent Advisory Centre in Solomon Islands. Matt acted as a peer reviewer for this activity in June 2016 and will also be providing feedback on the draft policy framework prepared by the Task Force.

Matt’s presentation to the Task Force also highlighted some of the important lessons learned from the much longer history of large-scale mining in PNG and Bougainville. The Bougainville case is particularly relevant because of the recent adoption there of a new Mining Act that directly addresses a number of issues that also apply in the case of Solomon Islands. His presentation stressed the role that extractive resource industries, including large-scale mining, played in the origins of the conflict that gripped Solomon Islands between 1998 and 2003, the so-called ‘Ethnic Tension’. Given the centrality of the Panguna mine to the genesis of the Bougainville Crisis, this is another reason why it is useful and important to share lessons and experiences between these two post-conflict settings. With this in mind, the 2016 State of the Pacific Conference will feature a session on mining policy that will facilitate dialogue and exchange between key policymakers from both Solomon Islands and Bougainville. Some research findings presented to the Solomon Islands Inter-Ministerial Task Force have also been published in an SSGM Discussion Paper (Porter and Allen 2015) and in a journal article (Allen and Porter 2016).
Democracy provides citizens with opportunities to participate actively in the economic, social and political development of their societies by keeping governments accountable. But citizens in the region face many challenges in participating effectively in formal political processes: political parties are impotent; certain groups are marginalised from political processes; policy processes and bureaucratic systems are weak and often opaque; and money politics is corrupting democratic processes. SSGM’s research engages broadly with issues of political participation and questions regarding how citizens and decision-makers work within formal and informal political systems to advance their interests. We have a particular interest in how political agency is exercised, including developmental leadership and the formation of coalitions, to progress reforms through parliamentary and informal political systems in the Pacific. SSGM’s research contributes to a better understanding of the challenges communities face in acting collectively to advance developmental reforms.

In 2015/16 SSGM progressed its research partnership with the Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) on how coalitions in the region mobilise around key development issues. Julien Barbara and Hannah McMahon completed political economy research on reform options to improve youth employment outcomes in the Pacific. This research involved focus group discussions, informant interviews and institutional mapping in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga and Samoa. The research highlighted the challenges faced by youth organisations in engaging with and progressing technical reform issues related to youth employment outcomes, for example better alignment between skills development and skills in demand. Julien Barbara completed similar research on the political economy of private sector development in Tonga, primarily in partnership with the Tonga Chamber of Commerce.

Our research partnership with PLP has highlighted the challenges civil society and private sector organisations face in refining their priorities for policy reform, and in developing effective strategies to advocate for their priorities in political institutions. The Solomon Islands Young Women’s Parliamentary Group’s (YWPG) approach to policy advocacy, particularly in relation to its urban bus routes campaign, provides an excellent example of how civil society organisations can mount issues-based campaigns to encourage policy deliberations in parliament and institutions of public administration. Further research is required to understand how the approach to issues-based policy advocacy deployed by the YWPG might be replicated by other organisations.

SSGM researchers, led by Nicole Haley and Kerry Zubrinich, continued to conduct research concerning women’s leadership in the Pacific. They completed a comprehensive literature review on women’s political and administrative leadership to inform design work being undertaken by Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women). The paper incorporated and expanded upon an earlier concept note that Nicole and Kerry prepared to inform the original Pacific Women design. It considered women’s leadership and participation as it relates to formal institutions and processes, including national and subnational government, the public sector and civic engagement. Also in relation to leadership in PNG, PhD scholar Phillip Mitna continued his research on the dynamics of foreign policy making in PNG and its implications for PNG’s national security, due for completion in 2016/17.

We also undertook research on the nature of political parties and parliaments in the region. Avinash Kumar, Pacific Research Fellow, undertook research on democracy in Fiji, with a particular focus on the current Fiji Parliament. Priya Chattier conducted research on gender equality in political party systems and processes in Fiji as a part of a regional study led by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. The research found that while party membership and recruitment of
candidates is open to all, major political parties in Fiji have been finding it difficult to recruit women members and that equal representation of females in the party structures is far from reality. The report concluded with a series of recommendations on strategies that might be adopted by the Fiji government, NGOs and political parties to address the low level of women’s inclusion in legislature and political party structures.

In 2016/17 we will progress our research on issues-based political participation to develop our thinking on how such an approach to policy advocacy might support more inclusive political norms in the region. We will continue to collaborate with development partners and active civil society groups to analyse the politics of reform and to identify politically responsive options for stakeholders’ engagement with these areas of potential reform. We will also continue our research on political parties and parliaments across the region, with a focus on lessons learned for legislative and political party strengthening programs.
Elections and Electoral Reform

While democracy as a political system is well entrenched across Melanesia, democratic systems have struggled to support political stability, good governance and inclusive development. The competitiveness of electoral politics has intensified, with electoral outcomes increasingly influenced by access to money. At the same time, there have been significant increases in levels of constituency development funding. Despite efforts to stabilise parliamentary politics, primarily through electoral reforms and political party stabilisation measures, politics remains unstable and based on tenuous parliamentary coalitions. Politics plays out in ways that limit prospects for reform and good governance, and reinforce clientelistic practices whereby citizens look for personalised benefits from their elected representatives and hold few expectations about the prospects of national development.

SSGM has been a leading contributor to research on Melanesian politics and political governance. We have made significant contributions to knowledge of elections and electoral politics in the region, including how women participate in and experience elections. Through our empirical research on electoral politics at the local level, our research is building knowledge of the motivations and behaviours of local candidates and voters, and the ways in which individuals and communities participate in political processes and seek to influence political decision-making.

In 2015/16 elections and electoral politics continued to be a major research focus for SSGM. A key component of our research on elections over the past decade has entailed observation of national and local elections. In February-March 2016 we expanded our body of work on elections by undertaking observations of the Samoan general elections, in partnership with the National University of Samoa (NUS) and the Samoan Office of the Electoral Commissioner (SOEC). Using a detailed and innovative election observation tool that generates quantitative and qualitative data in a systematic way, a team of 12 SSGM scholars and 40 Samoan researchers undertook observation of campaigning, pre-polling, polling and counting in 13 constituencies. Constitutional amendments ahead of the elections saw the abolition of multi-member seats, the introduction of new urban constituencies and special measures that guaranteed the election of five female members of parliament. This meant that the observation tool we had used elsewhere needed revision. In January, two officers from the SOEC, Francis Ainuu and Ah Kau Palale, came to Canberra and participated in the 2016 PRC. During their stay they also worked with us to finalise the research instruments for the Samoa election observation.

As part of our Seminar Series, in June 2016 SSGM scholars Roannie Ng Shiu and George Carter presented preliminary findings from the observation. Research findings from the observation will also be presented at the forthcoming Pacific Islands Political Science Association conference in July 2016. SSGM scholars are currently in the process of finalising a comprehensive research report to be presented to the SOEC in September 2016.

SSGM’s research on elections is providing new information on electoral politics and how elections are conducted in the region. Our research highlights the impact of the increasingly moneyed nature of electoral competition in PNG and Solomon Islands, and the strains that this trend is placing on democratic institutions. It also highlights how groups of people—for example women and young people—experience elections differently, and highlights the challenges faced by electoral authorities in delivering inclusive elections. This has particular relevance for how development partners, including Australia as a major provider of electoral support in the region, seek to assist with election preparations and delivery.

As discussed in the Politics of Service Delivery section of this report, in 2015/16 we extended our knowledge of local electoral politics in PNG through research supported by, and carried out in partnership with, CARE International. The research involved mapping the pattern of the incumbent MPs’ voter bases in each electorate using data from the last national election, as well as the distribution of projects funded under the District Services Improvement Program (DSIP).

We continued to progress long-term research on the impacts of electoral and institutional reforms in Melanesia and their implications for politics and governance. Research on electoral and political party reforms in Melanesia, including the shift to limited preferential voting, the introduction of measures to limit the ability to move motions of no confidence, and measures intended to improve the integrity of political parties, has highlighted how such measures have strengthened executive government, while placing pressure of institutional accountability mechanisms.

Our research on institutional reforms included a strong focus on the potential of temporary special measures (TSM) to improve the representation of women in Pacific parliaments. Kerryn Baker examined the implementation of the gender quota in the 2016 Samoan general election, which was the first ever held in Samoa using a constitutionally mandated minimum guaranteed level of women’s representation. The findings were published in a SSGM In Brief, A Watershed Moment, or Business as Usual? Female Candidates and Quota Implementation in the 2016 Samoan Election. Overall, our research in this area highlights that while TSM can be used to address the
under-representation of women in Melanesian parliaments, proponents need to direct more attention to the political strategies required to build support for such reforms. 

**In 2016/17** we will continue to progress our long-term research on elections and political participation in Melanesia, with an emphasis on how political systems, both formal and informal, impact on relationships between citizens and government, and implications for good governance and inclusive development. The PNG election, due to be held in 2017, will also be a major focus of our research. As discussed in more detail in the Bougainville section of the report, we plan to undertake research on upcoming local level elections in Bougainville, which are the first to be held under a new system established by the Bougainville Community Government Act of 2016. We will continue to draw on our elections research to engage with development partners and electoral management bodies regarding effective electoral support strategies for PNG.
The interdependence between security and development is now well understood by policymakers and academic researchers. Enhancing security provision as a pre-requisite to the pursuit of other development goals—and vice-versa—has become a particular focus in international engagement with fragile and conflict-affected states. Australia has been engaged in assisting domestic policing organisations in different parts of the Pacific region for many years. In addition to longstanding bilateral arrangements with countries like PNG, this has included multilateral assistance through participation in UN missions in post-conflict situations, as in the case of Timor-Leste, as well as Australia’s leadership of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

Australia’s interests in ensuring stability and security in the region, alongside its extensive experience in assisting and collaborating with neighbouring police organisations, provides the backdrop to ongoing and future collaborative research on Pacific policing—and security more broadly—being undertaken by SSGM scholars. Our research aims to investigate the diverse policing needs of Pacific nations; what affordable and sustainable policing models might look like in particular countries; specific policing issues including stakeholder engagement and ‘community policing’ in Pacific contexts, family and sexual violence, urban safety, and policing in areas of resource extraction; as well as the impact of the rapid growth of private security on public policing.

A key theme of this research relates to the lessons learned from Australian assistance to Pacific police organisations over many years.

In 2015/16 SSGM continued its ongoing research involving regular interactions between its researchers and members of the AFP, other parts of the Australian government, members of Pacific Islands governments, members of regional policing organisations, as well as other international organisations and researchers with an interest in police development in the region.

The drawdown of the RAMSI mission has meant that there has been considerable focus on Solomon Islands and, in particular, what kind of bilateral assistance from Australia and New Zealand to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) should replace the final withdrawal of the mission in mid-2017. Published research (journal articles and SSGM In Briefs) formed the basis of discussions between SSGM scholars and members of the police and broader policy community in Canberra, Honiara and Wellington. This research has sought to highlight some of the innovative and hybrid ‘community policing’ practices that have taken place on the fringes of the RAMSI mission and touches on broader issues of appropriate policing models in Melanesian countries in particular. These innovations that have been documented in our published research include the Community Officer Pilot scheme and its current evolution, with support from the World Bank, as the Community Grievance Mechanism in the provinces of Rennel, Bellona and Makira. The research has also brought a comparative dimension to police-building work in the Pacific by consciously engaging with the wider international literature addressing similar issues in other parts of the developing world.

Sinclair Dinnen worked with the police and relevant government agencies in Australia, New Zealand and Solomon Islands around the design of post-RAMSI policing assistance to Solomon Islands and developed a Concept Note for the New Zealand Government, which identified options for New Zealand bilateral assistance to the RSIPF. The Concept Note has now been endorsed by the New Zealand Government and will provide the basis for a detailed design of a New Zealand-funded program of policing assistance to Solomon Islands over the next five years.

Sinclair also worked with colleagues at UNDP, PIFS and Massey University around the issue of the regulation of the private security industry in the Pacific Islands. This included the preparation of a Concept Note for the Pacific Islands Forum Regional Security Committee and the joint hosting of a workshop in May 2016 in Suva on Mapping Private Security in the Pacific Islands attended by stakeholders from government, the private sector and civil society across the region. A Briefing Note with recommendations flowing from the workshop has been forwarded to the Forum Regional Security Committee.

Lia Kent, ANU RegNet Fellow, finalised a major, multi-authored research report, Chega! Ten Years On: A Neglected National Resource. The report presents the findings of a major research project, which Lia undertook as a SSGM Research Fellow, on dimensions of the impact of the final report of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, Chega!, in Timor-Leste. Based on the research findings, which suggest limited support amongst Timor-Leste’s political elite for the implementation of the key Chega! recommendations, the authors offer several recommendations relating to socialisation of Chega! Also in relation to our research on Timor-Leste, SSGM’s Armindo Maia continued his doctoral research on nationalism and the role of education in post-independence nation-building in the country.
Melissa Demian furthered her research on village courts and informal dispute management forums as a part of the Legal Innovation in PNG project supported by the UK Economic and Social Research Council. Findings from the project, which tracked changes in village courts functions over time and their adaptation to local contexts and conditions, were presented in a session of State of the Pacific 2015 convened by Melissa.

As mentioned in the text box over the page, SSGM socio-legal scholars, Sinclair Dinnen, Miranda Forsyth and Melissa Demian, along with other ANU colleagues, led a year-long Horizons Seminar series in the Coral Bell School throughout 2015. The Seminar Series critically interrogated issues of hybridity in the theory and practice of peace-building and development in the Asia-Pacific region. This included a strong focus on hybridity in the areas of justice, security and governance in the Melanesian countries. The research generated considerable interest and is filling a gap in both policy and academic spaces. Main findings relate to the need for a better understanding of the complex character of police-community interactions in the pluralistic social environments of contemporary Melanesia and how these might be improved to produce safer communities. The hybridity research culminated in an international workshop ‘Hybridity – History, Power and Scale’ at ANU in early December 2015 and we are now preparing an edited collection for publication with ANU Press and a special issue of a journal.

In 2016/17 Meg Keen, James Batley and Sinclair Dinnen will commence a major research project on the RAMSI Legacy for Pacific Policing, led by Coral Bell School Director Michael Wesley, in collaboration with the AFP. The project will collect quantitative and qualitative data across all 15 police forces that have participated in RAMSI to determine the impact of the RAMSI experience on Pacific policing. Fieldwork will be conducted in selected countries across the region and the project will run through to mid-2017.

Important research remains to be done in relation to private security in the region. We still have limited knowledge about the size and character of the industry and, as well as the need to collect baseline data in this regard, need more case studies to understand how this sector works in different parts of the region. There are many other issues that require further research, in particular the relationship between the industry and public security in countries like PNG and Solomon Islands, as well as issues relating to human rights and gender. The collaboration with UNDP, PIFS and Massey University will continue with a particular focus on facilitating regional-level regulation.
Engaging with Big Ideas: ‘Hybridity’ as a Lens on Development in Melanesia

Working in the field of applied research does not preclude engagement with ‘big ideas’. A strength of SSGM over the years has been its commitment to practical policy issues in a manner that is informed by theory and that can, in turn, contribute to the development of theory. In 2015 socio-legal scholars in SSGM facilitated the inaugural Coral Bell School’s Horizons Seminar Series around the broad theme of hybridity in the theory and practice of peace-building and development in the Asia-Pacific region. The series was designed to encourage inter-disciplinary and cross-regional dialogue around big ideas among the Bell School community. With a strong focus on hybridity in justice, security, and governance practice in the Melanesian countries, the 2015 seminar series culminated in an international workshop ‘Hybridity – History, Power and Scale’.

Our initial interest was triggered by the growing prominence of the hybridity concept across various disciplines. While most apparent in the critical peacebuilding literature through the use of concepts like ‘hybrid peace’ and ‘hybrid political orders’, legal anthropologists have long been interested in the interactions between different conceptions and practices of legality in pluralistic colonial and post-colonial societies. Regulatory theory has also moved away from narrow and linear conceptions of power and authority, introducing concepts of ‘networked governance’ and ‘transnational legal orders’. Similarly, human rights practitioners confronting the realities of normative pluralism in many countries have engaged with anthropological concepts in translating global norms into local contexts. Hybridity has also acquired prominence in development studies, often in recognition of the significant role of informal institutions and practices in the everyday lives of many citizens in developing countries. This has entailed broader questioning of the privileging of institutional form over function that continues to characterise institutional transfer in development practice.

While the conversations and collaborations begun through this initiative continue, we tentatively conclude that hybridity can be a useful analytical tool. Its value lies in its capacity to encourage a questioning of the boundaries between apparently fixed categories (e.g. state/non-state; formal/informal; traditional/modern; local/global) and its potential for shifting the analytical focus to spaces and potential sites of cooperation – as well as conflict – between different social and institutional forms. In this way, the concept of hybridity might help the emergence of a more nuanced picture of the complex, dynamic and non-linear character of development engagements, including their diverse and entangled cast of actors, ideas and practices. Presentations and discussions that occurred as a part of the Horizons Seminar Series on hybridity will form the basis of an edited book, tentatively titled A Critical Interrogation of Hybridity: History, Power and Scale, to be published in 2017, and a special issue of the journal Third World Thematics also in preparation.
Gender

Women’s Economic Empowerment and Ending Violence against Women

There is broad recognition in the gender and development literature that economic empowerment initiatives for women do not always have positive outcomes and that such empowerment sometimes results in violence against successful women. SSGM’s research on women’s economic empowerment seeks to learn whether the experience of other countries is relevant to the Pacific. SSGM has a number of active research and policy engagement activities on women’s economic empowerment. Since 2014 we have been collaborating with the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) on the research project: Do No Harm: Understanding the Relationship between Women’s Economic Empowerment and Violence against Women in Melanesia, with support from the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development initiative. This research aims to gather evidence to inform the design of economic empowerment initiatives so as to minimise possible harm and to maximise positive gender equity outcomes. The Do No Harm research has used in-depth interviews to explore the ways in which the domestic economy is managed within families and whether a wife’s production of income causes more frequent conflicts over money.

In 2015/16, following on from Do No Harm research undertaken in the Solomon Islands in 2014, Richard Eves undertook fieldwork in Bougainville with a team of three local Bougainvillian researchers, Steven Simiha, Irene Subalik and Genenieve Kouro. Richard had previously trained Irene and Genenieve in qualitative research methods as part of earlier research on young women’s leadership in collaboration with the Bougainville Women’s Federation and IWDA. The Do No Harm research in Bougainville in October 2015 resulted in a total of 85 interviews. The research team returned to PNG in April-May 2016 for a further five weeks fieldwork in the Highlands and Port Moresby, where the team completed a further 215 interviews.

As a part of SSGM’s research on women’s economic empowerment, we have also worked closely with CARE International’s Coffee Industry Support Project in Goroka to undertake research among coffee smallholders. This research is aligned with the Do No Harm project, but constitutes a separate program of research. In April 2015 in preparation for this research, Richard Eves and PhD scholar Asha Titus trained a cohort of CARE International workers in research methods and assisted them to develop specific research instruments for the study. Richard and Asha returned to the Eastern Highlands in July-August 2015 and undertook fieldwork for the project in three districts—Goroka, Unggai-Bena, and Okapa District. The research used mixed methods, including a quantitative survey of couples randomly selected from a smallholder cooperative partner in CARE’s Coffee Industry Support Project.

Our research on women’s economic empowerment, while still in progress, has generated significant findings to date. Our Do No Harm research in Bougainville found that many conflicts arise over income and these conflicts give rise to violence. Considerable violence against women also arises in the context of men’s consumption of alcohol, a topic Richard Eves has discussed in a SSGM In Brief, Alcohol, Gender and Violence in Bougainville. In the Highlands we found that although high levels of violence against women are prevalent, important initiatives there are transforming gender relations in positive ways. Similarly, the research undertaken among coffee small-holders in Goroka in partnership with CARE International’s Coffee Industry Support Project found that considerable conflict occurs in households over men’s spending of income.

The findings of this research have been presented in a number of SSGM In Briefs, academic publications and policy briefings. For example, in March 2016, Richard presented findings from the Bougainville Do No Harm research at DFAT and was a panel discussant on Women’s Economic Empowerment at DFAT’s Innovation Showcase also in March. He presented preliminary findings of the coffee smallholder research at State of the Pacific 2015, and in March 2016 presented the findings to DFAT’s Agriculture and Food Branch.

In 2016/17 we will continue to analyse the large and rich data set gathered during the fieldwork for the Do No Harm project. In relation to the research conducted with CARE International’s Coffee Industry Support Project in Goroka, Richard Eves and Asha Titus will continue to analyse the large and rich data set gathered during fieldwork in the Eastern Highlands. We will also publish and present the findings of both projects to inform the work of policymakers and practitioners.
Women’s Political Participation

Across the Pacific, women continue to be grossly underrepresented in decision-making at all levels. The degree to which women are underrepresented in Pacific legislatures is more pronounced than anywhere else in the world, and finding ways to better support women to perform well in Pacific elections remains a major policy challenge. Over the past three years SSGM scholars have, with Pacific Women support, generated a sizable body of new research concerning women’s leadership and political participation across the region. This research, which has investigated women’s leadership at various levels—locally, provincially and nationally—and in a range of sectors, lays the foundation for a more nuanced analysis of women’s political participation in Melanesia and the Pacific more broadly and has important policy and programming implications.

A major focus of SSGM’s research, led by Nicole Haley, Kerry Zubrinich and Kerry Baker, has been on how women participate in elections and political processes more broadly. An entire day of SSGM’s State of the Pacific Conference 2015 was devoted to presentation of gender research, during which Nicole, Kerry and Kerryn presented on different aspects of their women’s leadership research. A podcast of the Women’s Leadership and Political Participation panel is available on the SSGM website.

Our observation work has included specific research on women in elections, generating a large number of publications on the impact of money politics, electoral institutions, electoral violence and local electoral dynamics on women’s electoral fortunes and political participation more broadly. It demonstrates that women do not participate in elections as equal citizens and are not afforded equal suffrage. As discussed in the Elections and Electoral Reform section of this report, in February-March 2016 we expanded our extensive body of work on elections by undertaking observations of the Samoan general elections in partnership with NUS and the SOEC. The observation generated data regarding men and women’s experiences of elections and electoral politics, as well as perceptions of men and women’s leadership, that allows for comparative analysis between contexts where SSGM has conducted similar research.

In 2015/16 two PhD students continued their doctoral research on women’s political participation and representation. In late June 2016 Almah Tararia completed her PhD fieldwork in PNG’s New Ireland Province during which she examined women’s influence at the local level in a matrilineal society. Her research focuses on village and ward level committees that have women members (either elected or nominated) and examines how women exercise leadership at the local level and the extent of their influence on these committees. Another of our PhD scholars, Theresa Meki, who is examining women’s political participation in Oro Province in the lead up to and during the 2017 PNG National Elections, completed a scoping study in Oro Province in March 2016 and is due to commence fieldwork in August 2016.

Our research on how successful candidates (male and women) form electoral coalitions and mobilise resources to support strong electoral campaigns is underpinning regional efforts to improve the focus of development partner support for women candidates by engaging more effectively with local politics. This work is complemented by our broader research, led by Nicole Haley and Kerry Zubrinich, on women in decision making, which is investigating the ways in which women exercise leadership across a range of domains (public sector, private sector, and civil society) and how leadership in these areas strengthens prospects for improved electoral success.

As discussed in the Events section of this report, in June 2016 SSGM co-hosted with CDI a three-day workshop on Improving Women’s Electoral Chances through an Evidence-Based Approach. In the coming year SSGM and CDI will publish a synthesis report on the workshop and a series of policy briefs to inform development partner efforts in the region. SSGM’s future research program on women’s political participation and representation will also be informed by the discussions at the workshop.

Our research on women’s political participation is informing civil society and development partner efforts to improve women’s political participation. As discussed in the Leadership, Parliaments and Political Parties section of this report, Nicole Haley and Kerry Zubrinich completed a comprehensive literature review on women’s political and administrative leadership to inform design work being undertaken by Pacific Women.

Our research has also engaged with issues of democratic governance and institutional reform. We engaged with the growing interest in the broader Pacific in TSM to strengthen women’s electoral representation, with research on institutional reform options and experimentation occurring in the Pacific, and on the challenges faced by advocates of such measures in implementing reform. As a prelude to the Improving Women’s Electoral Chances through an Evidence-Based Approach workshop, SSGM hosted a seminar by Dorosday Kenneth, Vanuatu’s Director of Women’s Affairs and Tess Newton Cain, titled Stories from the Inside: How We Got Women onto Municipal Councils in Vanuatu and What Happened Next…. in which they reflected upon the introduction of TSM to municipal councils in Port Vila (2014 elections) and Luganville (2015 elections) and upon the experiences of those women councillors since.

In 2016/17 we will continue to focus on women’s political participation, and will seek to progress partnerships established at our electoral workshop to build our knowledge of electorate-level political economies and how women need to work within them. A key focus will be on working with women’s groups in PNG in the lead up to the 2017 election. Another avenue of research enquiry we will pursue in the coming year concerns the status of women’s administrative leadership in the Pacific. Despite the public sector being the largest employer of women across the region, this is one area which has attracted little scholarly attention to date.
The Changing Nature of Gender, Sexuality and Marriage

There have been clear changes to the nature of marriage, sexuality and gender in the Pacific, as demonstrated by increasing rates of polygamy, commodification of traditional marriage and the adoption of the notion of marrying for love, rather than for strategic or clan reasons. Other changes include increasing instances of cross-cultural marriage, new expectations of marriage partners and the adoption of Christian notions of marriage. Relationships between gender, alcohol and violence are also changing. SSGM’s long-term and ongoing research on the changing nature of gender, sexuality and marriage in Pacific region is contributing to a deeper understanding of these transitions and their effects—particularly in relation to gender equality.

In 2015/16 we continued our research on the changing nature of gender, sexuality and marriage with new fieldwork in PNG. Richard Eves conducted extensive interviews with key informants in Jiwaka, Chimbu and the Eastern Highlands Provinces and found that the ways in which polygynous marriages were regulated in the past are rarely observed today, with the result being the decline of checks and balances that previously mitigated against conflict in the household associated with polygyny. Richard’s research has found that today’s form of polygyny engenders a broad range of social problems that have negative outcomes for women.

Jenny Munro continued her research on the relationships between gender, violence and alcohol in Papua, and to disseminate the findings of this research through conference presentations and publications. Jenny’s research has pointed to ways that alcohol is gaining traction as a dangerous mode of contact between indigenous men, the security sector, and non-Papuan migrants in the Highlands, leading to increased conflict and potentially severe ethnic clashes. Jenny’s research has also found that alcohol elicits and rationalises racial stigma towards Papuans, and generates significant levels of self-blame and internalised stigma. Her research has found that alcohol bans are unlikely to be an effective way to address a complex set of issues related to gender, violence and alcohol, and that structural and health-oriented approaches are required.

Also in relation to Papua, Jenny Munro continued to analyse qualitative data on young women’s alcohol consumption in the context of sexual relations and pregnancy. Her research has found that young women in Papua are incredibly marginalised when it comes to accessing health services. An unintended consequence of a lack of health rights for unmarried people in Indonesia is unsafe abortions or attempted abortions, including via excessive alcohol consumption. The research with young women in Papua has also highlighted other ways in which they experience violence, for example family violence and violence from their boyfriends. The research suggests the need for increased advocacy towards sexual and reproductive health rights for young people, awareness of the effects of excessive alcohol consumption (including on unborn babies) and further research on the prevalence and effects of gender-based violence and family violence even among educated, urban populations. Thus far, violence against women and children in Papua has received very little research or policy attention domestically or from international agencies.

In 2016/17 Jenny Munro plans to collaborate with civil society and government agencies in Papua on future research and policy engagement activities related to gender-based violence and alcohol. She will also pursue further research on young women’s alcohol consumption in the context of sexual relations and pregnancy. Richard Eves will draw on the data collected during fieldwork in 2015/16 to undertake a number of specific writing projects that examine the contemporary nature of marriage, bride-price and polygyny, including the paper Domestic Discord: Marriage, Polygyny and Violence in Highlands PNG. He will also embark on a collaborative project on polygyny with Jenny Litau of the Pacific Adventist University that will seek to address the recognised and considerable knowledge gaps on the extent of polygyny and the forms that it is taking, as well as the implications of these changes for gender relations in the Pacific.
Gender, Health and HIV

Gender inequality remains a severe constraint on development, leading to endemic levels of violence against women, poor social and health outcomes for women, and increasing levels of HIV among women and girls in those countries where it is epidemic. SSGM’s research addresses some of the complex issues in delivering culturally appropriate and effective strategies to address health and HIV in the region. Health issues are closely related to other areas of SSGM research, including mobility, sexuality and empowerment.

Our research has involved in-depth analysis of the dynamics of health services, specifically HIV services, to understand some of the complexities of access to services. It is clear that geographic remoteness is not the only way to understand ‘access’—acceptability, previous experiences, awareness, cultural patterns, political beliefs, and family dynamics all shape whether or not women access health services.

In 2015/16 Jenny Munro continued to disseminate the results of research on preventing mother to child transmission of HIV among indigenous mothers in Papua, which has shown that even in an urban provincial capital, women experience poor-quality HIV education and counselling, and indigenous practices and concerns are largely not addressed. The research demonstrates the need for services that acknowledge existing inequalities, ethnic tensions, and discrimination in the health system. Research on HIV positive young women’s experiences of ostracism and neglect by their families and the wider community shows that much more advocacy and intervention is needed to support people living with HIV in Papua.

Jenny also conducted research on Papuan experiences of health services for pregnancy and childbirth, focusing on women for whom geographic access to services should not be a deterrent. The purpose of the study is to collect information about how Papuan women use health services for pregnancy and childbirth, including antenatal care and hospital delivery, by understanding their experiences, beliefs and practices around pregnancy and childbirth. As discussed in the section of this report on our urbanisation research, Jenny Munro also conducted a scoping visit towards future research on health in West Papuan refugee settlements in Port Moresby, including discussions with key informants and community members. In the context of more active efforts on the part of PNG to register West Papuans and process citizenship applications, these discussions revealed the need for more extensive research to inform government policy on addressing poverty among these refugees.

Several Papuan scholars—Mariana Buiney, Melyana Pugu, and Elvira Rumkabu—conducting research on security, health and development in the Indonesian border area visited SSGM in January-February 2016 as part of the PRC. Their visit presented a valuable opportunity to develop a collaborative research agenda on health and HIV in Indonesia and PNG. Also related to cross-border research, Jenny continued to develop, discuss and disseminate findings from the 2014 Papuan-led Indigenous HIV Prevention and Treatment Strategy. This included follow up discussions with key NGOs involved in providing HIV education and services, and discussion regarding opportunities for cross-border health aid development projects with PNG.

PhD Scholar Ellen Kulumbu undertook fieldwork in PNG’s Gulf and Southern Highlands Provinces for her study on the determinants for demand and delivery of health services in PNG. Ellen returned to Canberra to commence analysis and writing up of her research data. PhD Scholar Steph Lusby also continued her doctoral research on masculinity and HIV/AIDS prevention in New Britain, PNG, which is due for completion in 2016/17.

In 2016/17 we will conduct further research on how Papuan women use health services for pregnancy and childbirth. We also intend to conduct further research on health in West Papuan refugee settlements in Port Moresby, in order to inform government policy on addressing poverty in these settlements.
Belief in sorcery and witchcraft is a cause of fear and insecurity in contemporary Melanesia, with significant effects on development indicators. Though such beliefs are not new to the region, commentators believe that new forms of sorcery are proliferating along with attacks on alleged sorcerers and witches. SSGM scholars have investigated these developments for over more than a decade. Our long-term research on sorcery and witchcraft in Melanesia has contributed to a deeper understanding of sorcery and witchcraft beliefs; sorcery and witchcraft related violence; and regulatory responses to sorcery and witchcraft allegations in Melanesia. Our research has generated an evidence-base that has helped to inform the development of culturally appropriate interventions to address sorcery-accusation related violence, including PNG’s National Action Plan to address sorcery accusations related violence (SNAP) that was approved by the PNG National Executive Council in July 2015.

In 2015/16 Richard Eves continued to undertake research on the Sorcery and Witchcraft-Related Accusations and Violence: Understanding the Perpetrator research project in collaboration with Angela Kelly-Hanku from the PNG Institute of Medical Research and School of Public Health & Community Medicine, UNSW. Despite a great deal of interest in sorcery and witchcraft accusation-related violence in the last few years by academics, development practitioners and human rights organisations, very little research on the perpetrators of these acts of violence has been done, and so our research breaks new ground. Richard conducted further interviews with perpetrators of these acts of violence in Goroka in May 2016. So far the research has revealed that attacks against those accused of witchcraft occur not only in rural parts of the Highlands, but that several killings have occurred in the urban centre of Goroka or areas nearby. The research highlights the need for initiatives to address sorcery and witchcraft-related violence to be undertaken in both urban and rural areas. The research has also found that despite the widespread belief that such attacks are usually carried out by unemployed youths high on drugs, many perpetrators are in fact employed adults who are not involved in the consumption of drugs.

Throughout the year, Miranda Forsyth prepared a large, multi-year collaborative research project to be supported by Pacific Women that will provide crucial research findings to inform the roll out of the SNAP. The core research team for the project will include SSGM scholars, as well as Fiona Hukula from PNG National Research Institute, Donald Gumbis from the University of Goroka (UoG) and three research assistants from the three fieldsites (National Capital District, the Highlands and Bougainville). Other research partners including Philip Gibbs and Maria Sagrista from Divine Word University and Mary Fairo from the PNG Constitutional Law Reform Commission (CLRC), will support the team. The project will support a range of PNG partners to address sorcery accusation-related violence by developing and communicating a body of evidence regarding which interventions to break the link between sorcery and violence are working and why, and how they can best be supported. The project will investigate a range of interventions by state and non-state actors and institutions (such as customary and local organisations, churches, the private sector and civil society) in overcoming the violence associated with accusations of sorcery. These research insights will be used to assist key stakeholder partners, such as the Department of Justice and Attorney General, Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee and Centre for Social and Creative Media (CSCM), in developing training packages and awareness materials as required by the SNAP. It is expected that the project will commence in September 2016.

In 2016/17 Richard Eves and Angela Kelly-Hanku will work to complete several writing projects using the rich qualitative data obtained during fieldwork on their collaborative research project. This will include a SSGM Discussion Paper, Injustice Delivered Locally: Vigilante Violence and Romanticisation of the Local, which critiques the tendency of some academics to romanticise local conceptions of justice.
Social and Cultural Change

Social and cultural landscapes in Melanesia and the broader Pacific are being reconfigured, not least by the spread of new technologies. Our research in this area focuses on understanding these transformations and their influences.

In 2015/16 John Cox continued his research on fast money schemes in PNG, while Asha Titus continued her doctoral research on the role of information communication technologies (ICTs) in shaping global value chains and networked economies. Asha collected initial data on coffee market structures in PNG, and found evidence of diverse value chains involving growers, village buyers, exporters, middle buyers and other intermediaries. These findings contrast early ethnographic work on PNG that highlights the dominance of producer-sellers. She collected baseline data on the percentage of households with mobiles phones and the percentage of households that use it to coordinate coffee selling that is not available otherwise. Her early fieldwork also found the role of cooperatives and collectives such as women’s groups, the influence of distance to market on price, and the gendered nature of the trade.

Visiting Fellow Amanda Watson worked with Colin Wiltshire to deliver a SSGM seminar on reporting corruption in PNG’s Public Financial Management System. The seminar drew on Colin’s in-depth knowledge of the public financial management system in PNG and findings from Amanda’s research, supported by the Australian Government, on the Phones against Corruption project, an innovative initiative of the PNG Government’s Department of Finance, supported by UNDP. The seminar outlined the context in which the initiative was implemented, the findings of the research, and its practical and theoretical implications. The pair have completed a SSGM Discussion Paper on the topic, which will be published in early 2016/17.

Amanda also presented her work in the 2016 Coral Bell School Horizons seminar series, in a seminar titled Digital Disruption and Analogue Academics. She drew on her research on the uptake and use of mobile phones in PNG to consider how the size and pace of change in digital technologies have reshaped our society, economy, politics and media; and whether disruption is an equaliser or entrenches old forms of power and inequality, particularly across Asia and the Pacific.

In 2016/17 Amanda Watson will undertake a fellowship with SSGM, during which time she will co-convene a Higher Degree Research course, Fieldwork in the Pacific, and continue to publish her research on ICTs in PNG. She will convene a session of State of the Pacific 2016 that will explore the impact of increased access to mobile phones, other information and communication technologies (ICTs) and media outlets on socio-economic development and lifestyles in the Pacific. In 2016/17 Asha Titus will undertake further field research in PNG. She has been invited to be affiliated with the UoG’s Centre for Social and Creative Media during the next phase of fieldwork for her doctoral study. In September she will present the findings of analysis on archived data from Twitter and other social media platforms regarding anti-corruption in PNG and the 2014 Fiji elections at a QUT symposium on ‘Digital Publics in the Asia Pacific’.

Sports Leadership, Diplomacy and Development

Sport, through sports diplomacy and sport for development, is often used to remind people that sport has the capacity to transcend national and political boundaries and unite people. In 2015/16 Roannie Ng Shiu continued her long-term research on Pacific sports leadership in partnership with National Rugby League’s (NRL) Education and Welfare Department. While her research generally focuses on leadership and education training programs for athletes and Pacific cultural engagement programs, she is now broadening her research to include sports diplomacy and sports for development. This began with Roannie taking a leading role in developing and facilitating a training workshop hosted by the Pacific Community (SPC) in Noumea in August 2015. The workshop provided NRL Pacific staff and players with an overview of the key development issues facing the region. Roannie also continued to collaborate with development partners working in partnership with the NRL to improve health and education outcomes for Pacific islanders in Australia and the region.

SSGM PhD scholar George Gavet also contributed to SSGM’s research on sports diplomacy and development through his doctoral research on the social costs of relocating for opportunities within elite sport, with a focus on the experiences of male Pasifika athletes in the NRL.

In 2016/17 George Gavet will continue his doctoral research and present preliminary research findings in a session of State of the Pacific 2016 on sports diplomacy and development in the Pacific convened by Roannie Ng Shiu. Roannie will also work on documenting the impact of a tool developed by New Zealand Pacific NGO LeVa to support young men who are relocating for opportunities in the NRL.
BOUGAINVILLE

Bougainville is an important area of study across a number of disciplines. Owing to its history, Bougainville has a particular role in building understanding of, and forecasting, trends in regional politics. Bougainville is also important in the study of Papua New Guinean politics. It presents political difficulties, not least the possibility of secession. Bougainville’s status as the only autonomous region of PNG also means that its institutions of government are substantially different from elsewhere in PNG.

There are important gaps in our understanding of Bougainville and its political system, notably processes of political organisation outside of ABG; the extent of pro- and anti- independence attitudes throughout Bougainville and the potential for these attitudes to be politically mobilised; and the extent to which ‘traditional authorities’ remain in the driver’s seat. The complexity of Bougainville’s political landscape has been highlighted over the past twelve months, as has the importance of ongoing research and analysis on the region.

2015 was marked by the formation of the third ABG, with general elections having been carried out in May and June 2015. The re-elected President John Momis and Vice President Patrick Nisira have had to guide Bougainville through an especially difficult period marked by funding disputes with Port Moresby, and continuing internal disputes over the 2015 Mining Act and the future of the Panguna Mine. Furthermore, over the past year the ABG has begun planning in earnest for the referendum on independence expected to be held in 2019.

In 2015/16 SSGM scholars continued their engagement with Bougainville, undertaking research on a range of issues including political developments, leadership at the local and subnational level, referendum arrangements and, as discussed in further detail in the Resources and Conflict section of this report, mining. Thiago Cintra Oppermann continued his ongoing research concerning local-level politics and the dynamics of ‘traditional’ social organisations in Bougainville. PhD Scholar David Oakeshott carried out extensive fieldwork in Bougainville as a part of his doctoral research on the telling of recent conflicts in Bougainville and Solomon Islands in schools in both locations, and implications for nation-building and peace-building. Now nearing completion, Sue Ingram continued her doctoral research on post-conflict political settlements and stability in Timor-Leste and Bougainville, which has explored the nature and role of the political settlement in post-conflict Bougainville, including complex relationships between Bougainville and PNG.

Following on from their observation of the 2015 general elections, Kerryn Baker and Thiago Cintra Oppermann prepared an analytical report based upon their observations. Their research found significant geographical differences in political organisation within Bougainville, for example the role and influence of political parties was found to vary widely across the region. Their research showed that where formal political parties have weak influence, for example in the Central Region, political blocs around preeminent ex-combatants operate as de facto political parties. Overall, ABG elections were found to be characterised by dimensions of ideological contestation as well as the politics of distribution. Kerryn and Thiago’s analysis of the ABG general elections did not produce clear results in terms of overall levels of support for Bougainville’s independence and for major mining operations in Bougainville. It found that determining levels of support or opposition to either of these issues must be done so with due regard for local level politics.

Kerryn and Thiago presented the key findings outlined in the report to the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner and to DFAT in March 2016. They also presented the findings of their Bougainville elections research, which included a focus on women’s leadership, in an In Brief and Discussion Paper and in a number of seminars and conference sessions, including the 2015 State of the Pacific Conference.

In relation to SSGM’s research and engagement on arrangements for the Bougainville referendum, Anthony Regan continued to provide advice to the ABG Department of Referendum, Veterans and Peace on referendum preparations. In March 2016 he co-facilitated
a major ABG workshop on referendum planning, for which he prepared a major research report on issues associated with, and options for planning for, the referendum. That paper has subsequently been published in instalments on a weekly basis in the PNG Post Courier since March, with the latest instalment to be published in July 2016.

Anthony Regan also completed a study on the complex interactions of Bougainville local politics and large-scale mining, drawing on a range of data, including interviews with Bougainvillean actors conducted over more than twenty years. The paper, which addresses the origins of the conflict and compares the range of actors and issues involved with current debates about the future of large-scale mining in Bougainville, will be published later in 2016 in a book edited by Colin Filer and Pierre-Yves Le Meur. The book compares the interaction of local politics and large scale mining in New Caledonia and PNG.

In 2016/17 we will undertake further fieldwork in Bougainville to follow up on the role of party political organisation, looking back at the fate of the organisations active in the 2015 election and forward to the 2017 national election. We will also undertake research on upcoming local level elections in Bougainville. These elections are the first to be held under a new system established by the Bougainville Community Government Act of 2016, which became law on 9 June 2016. The new Act abolishes Councils of Elders, which were formed by a variety of methods, including elections and selection of traditional authorities. The new Community Governments will be exclusively elected, and traditional authorities will be confined to Ward Assemblies. This is a major change, especially from the point of view of traditional authorities, which still command substantial power in some areas of Bougainville.

We will also analyse the impact and implications of Rio Tinto’s surrender of its shares in Bougainville Copper Limited in June 2016 and the lifting of the moratorium on exploration licenses. The impact of these decisions on the internal politics of Bougainville, its relationship with Port Moresby and its future economic prospects will be subjects of SSGM’s ongoing research on Bougainville.
The amount of state funds that are explicitly or effectively under the control of members of parliament has grown enormously in PNG and Solomon Islands in recent years. In both countries Constituency Development Funds (CDFs) now account for up to 15 per cent of total government outlays. This puts both countries at the extreme upper range of the 30-something countries that maintain such funding mechanisms. CDFs have come to play a fundamental role in the political economy of both PNG and Solomon Islands (although not, at this stage, of their Melanesian neighbour Vanuatu); they have undermined both the role of formal sub-national governance structures, central service delivery agencies and influenced the makeup of coalition governments in national parliaments.

In an attempt to legitimise CDF allocations, significant reforms to existing governance arrangements have been introduced. The PNG Parliament passed a Bill to establish District Development Authorities (DDAs) in each electorate, which has reformed the organic law that sets out decentralised service delivery structures. DDAs formalise the central role of open electorate MPs to determine the communities that benefit from CDFs, the economic and development sectors that are prioritised, and senior public service appointments at sub-national levels. In Solomon Islands, by contrast, arrangements for the management of CDFs are much less formalised and standardised; even so, funds available to MPs heavily outweigh those available to Provincial Governments. That said, the way politicians use CDFs in practice, their real-world impact on promoting economic growth or improving development outcomes, and the role CDFs play in elections, are only dimly or anecdotally understood.

In 2015/16 we took important steps to initiate a longer-term research project to better understand the CDF phenomenon. In 2015 in partnership with CARE International in PNG, SSGM scholars—Colin Wiltshire, Theresa Meki, Thiago Oppermann, Almah Tararia and Richard Eves—conducted structured political analysis in three districts and joint assessments of three DDAs. They mapped the pattern of the incumbent MPs’ voter bases in each electorate and that of rival politicians using ballot box data from the 2012 national elections, as well as and the distribution CDF projects funded under the District Services Improvement Program (DSIP). A political economy analysis was used to assess the capacity of districts to carry out their mandated responsibilities under the DDA. This involved in-depth interviews, surveys, workshops and community focus group discussions with more than 200 participants across the three districts.

At the 2015 State of the Pacific Conference, Solomon Islands academic Tony Hiriasia presented the outcome of his research into voting patterns in a constituency in Solomon Islands and challenged conventional assumptions about the decisive role of constituency funding in voter behaviour. In March 2016, serving Solomon Islands MP Rick Hou was attached to SSGM and provided a direct and rare insight into the mechanics of managing CDFs from the point of view of the MP. As discussed in the Pacific Visitors section of this report, Hou contributed to emergent debate about the place of CDFs in national governance by arguing that CDFs should be actively harnessed as vehicles for service delivery.

In August 2015 the Australian High Commission in PNG hosted a three-day workshop on strategies for supporting PNG’s decentralisation agenda. SSGM contributed two detailed discussion papers, one on the history of decentralisation in PNG and another that assessed implications of DDA reforms for service delivery.

Our research in PNG has found that huge increases in CDFs impact service delivery on the ground and are driving broader decentralisation reforms. The perceived imperative for PNG politicians to deliver directly to their constituents through decentralized service delivery has led to new approaches and policies to manage CDFs more effectively.
constituents in the hope of securing political support has become increasingly prominent and is consistent with past decentralisation trends that date back to independence. The recent introduction of DDAs is progressively changing governance and service delivery institutions in PNG. While DDAs decide on the sectors that are prioritised and where CDF projects are distributed in the electorate, they are constrained by weak implementation capacity to deliver anticipated benefits. Communities that support the incumbent MPs have high expectations that they are due to receive CDF projects, whereas other communities that did not support the MP concede that they fare little chance of receiving such projects. A SSGM In Brief, *Politicising Drought Relief in Papua New Guinea*, outlined the inherent risks of relying on DDAs to fairly distribute politically controlled development funds to communities that needed drought assistance the most.

In the Solomon Islands context, our early research, led by James Batley, has underlined the importance of CDFs relative to overall budget allocations (and in comparison to other countries which maintain these schemes). It has also served to underline the paucity of hard data about how these funds work in practice. A SSGM In Brief, *Constituency Development Funds in Solomon Islands: State of Play*, which assessed the current state of CDFs in Solomon Islands and suggested areas for further research, was published in the Solomon Star newspaper.

Our research on the politics of service delivery is directly relevant to Australia’s large aid programs to both PNG and Solomon Islands, and those programs’ investments in improved service delivery. It is providing a clearer understanding of governance as it really works in both countries, particularly regarding the incentives and drivers of political behaviour, on the part of MPs, aspiring MPs and voters alike. The research also informs broader ongoing debates of how decentralisation reforms should be structured and implemented to improve results on the ground. It may also provide openings for innovative approaches to the design and delivery of Australian aid in these countries.

Knowledge about how CDFs in Solomon Islands are managed in practice, how funds are spent and on what, their links with central service delivery agencies and their impact on voting behaviour remains extremely patchy. In 2016/17, subject to approvals, we plan on launching a small number of case studies in individual Solomon Islands constituencies to explore these questions. We will also undertake research into how CDFs and other budget expenditures work to either constrain or promote service delivery progress in health, education and infrastructure developments in PNG. This research will inform donors’ efforts to think and work politically in PNG, which presents both opportunities and challenges to providing development assistance.
Labour Mobility

In 2014/15 SSGM scholars commenced a research program on labour mobility, with a particular focus on seasonal worker programs in the region. Labour mobility in the Pacific is a potential facilitator of regional integration and economic growth. Increased access to regional labour markets provides labour sending countries with opportunities to improve national income and to increase resource flows to poor households. Since the establishment of Australia’s Seasonal Worker Program (SWP) and New Zealand’s Recognised Worker Scheme (RSE) a number of evaluations and studies have, overall, shown positive effects for families and communities in labour sending countries participating in the schemes. SSGM’s research is contributing to this body of knowledge by focussing primarily on the impacts of participation in seasonal worker programs in labour sending countries.

In 2015/16 we continued a number of active research projects investigating aspects of labour mobility in the region. As a part of her nine-year longitudinal study on the impacts of participation in regional seasonal labour schemes, originally focused on the experiences of ni-Vanuatu workers in the RSE and now extending to the SWP, Rochelle Bailey returned to Vanuatu in May 2016 to conduct interviews with a large cohort of seasonal workers returning from Australia and New Zealand.

The interviews focused on employment practices and workers’ experiences in Australia and New Zealand, returned workers’ short and long-term plans, as well as potential social issues that had arisen from their time away from home. Rochelle also investigated approaches and measures that have been established by communities, families and individuals to mitigate negative outcomes, and potential negative outcomes, associated with seasonal work.

Several SSGM scholars—George Carter, Claire Cronin, Priya Chattier and Rochelle Bailey—also undertook research as a part of the World Bank’s Development Impact Evaluation Survey of the SWP. Stephen Close progressed his doctoral research on public policy and institutional responses to young people’s entry into the labour force in different Pacific island countries. In early 2016 Rochelle Bailey undertook a comprehensive literature review for Australia’s Labour Mobility Assistance Program (LMAP) on the development impacts of seasonal worker schemes in the Pacific. The report identified areas for further research, which included the role of the schemes in responses to natural disasters in the region, gaps in training and skills development for workers participating in the schemes, and the social impacts of long-term participation in the schemes for individuals, families and communities. It is expected that the knowledge gaps and areas for further research identified in the report will be discussed and prioritised at a stakeholder roundtable discussion scheduled for early August 2016.

Prior to returning to the Australian public service in November 2015, Rochelle Ball continued to undertake research on possibilities for strengthening migration pathways from the Pacific to Australia for both unskilled and skilled workers. Rochelle Ball and Rochelle Bailey made a submission to the Australian Parliament’s Joint Standing Committee on Migration Inquiry into the Seasonal Worker Program. Their submission addressed a range of issues concerning the SWP, particularly the role and impact of the SWP in supporting development outcomes in the Pacific. The submission was cited frequently in the Committee’s report on the Inquiry tabled in Parliament in May 2016.

In 2016/17 we will continue our research on the social impacts of labour mobility in the region. We also plan to investigate the nature and effectiveness of local initiatives intended to mitigate potentially negative consequences associated with participation in regional labour mobility programs.
Geo-Politics of the Pacific

Geo-political shifts in the Pacific are driving changes in regional politics, diplomacy and development. Actors, such as China, have become increasingly interested in Pacific island countries as trading partners and investment destinations. Pacific island countries have also become more active, both individually and as a bloc, on key regional and global governance issues, such as resource management, climate change and the global development agenda. While there is much movement in the areas of regional diplomacy and development, and it is recognised that the regional status quo is changing rapidly, there are large gaps in our understanding of who the new regional actors are, the nature of their interests and how they seek to shape regional politics. These broad changes are also driving institutional reform processes as Pacific island countries seek to update existing and develop new regional architectures to better manage the challenges of a changing region. Our research is contributing to better understanding of the shifting nature of international relations in the Pacific, the politics of Pacific regionalism and how Pacific states are working to address common challenges.

In 2015/16 we continued our research on Chinese economic interests in the region. Shaun Gessler progressed his research on Chinese mining interests in PNG, undertaking extensive fieldwork in Madang province as part a his study of the social impacts of the Chinese-owned Ramu Nickel mine. Graeme Smith and Sinclair Dinnen analysed implications of new Chinese state-owned mining companies operating in PNG, publishing a SSGM In Brief, And Then There Were Three: A New Chinese Miner in Papua New Guinea, on the subject. We also progressed research on China’s One Belt, One Road policy and its implications for Pacific island countries. Despite its significance for the region, for example in terms of its influence on the conditions under which Pacific states might borrow funds from Chinese banks and the new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the impacts of the policy have received very little scholarly attention. Graeme Smith also conducted collaborative research on the fish chain from PNG to Asian markets, with Kate Barclay from University of Technology Sydney and Jeff Kinch from the PNG National Fisheries College. The research, supported by the David and Lucille Packer Foundation, involved fieldwork in Port Moresby, Aitotu and Manus Island in August 2015.

China’s aid interests in the region remained a focus of our research. PhD scholar Denghua Zhang continued his doctoral research on China’s engagement in triateral aid cooperation in the Pacific, which is due for completion in 2016/17. PhD scholar George Carter conducted research on China’s cooperation as a climate donor to the Pacific. He undertook collaborative research with Sun Yat Sen University scholars on the status of Pacific climate governance. He also conducted collaborative research with Denghua Zhang and Ellen Kulumbu on a UNDP China supported project exploring Pacific priorities for the Sustainable Development Agenda. The findings of the research will be published in a series of research reports in 2016/17. George will also present findings of his ongoing research on climate finance and its role in the Pacific climate industry in panel discussion he is convening at the State of the Pacific 2016 titled The Climate-Change Development Nexus.

We used our research findings to contribute to deeper understanding of China’s increasing regional engagement. For example, SSGM scholars were invited to present their findings at the 2015 Melbourne Conference on China: Accountability and Control in the Xi Jinping Era hosted by University of Melbourne, the Asia Pacific International Studies Association Conference in Hong Kong and a Brussels Briefing hosted by the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States Secretariat. We also published widely on this area of research. Of particular note, SSGM scholars contributed chapters for China’s Blue Book on Oceania, the official reference work for Chinese policymakers and academics. In August 2015 Graeme Smith’s journal article Getting Ahead in Rural China: The Elite—Cadre Divide and its Implication for Rural governance was selected by the Editors of the Journal of Contemporary China in recognition of its relevance.

We continued to develop our research on emerging and changing diplomatic relationships in the region. One important strand of this research has been on the diplomatic maturation of Pacific island countries as more active participants in regional and global diplomatic and development processes. To this end, Stewart Firth and George Carter wrote about a new regional mood characterised by greater Melanesian assertiveness as Pacific island countries find themselves with new options for bilateral partnerships and in some cases, such as PNG, more resources to pursue new interests. James Batley published a SSGM In Brief on PNG’s developing aid program in the region.

Suzanne O’Neill conducted new fieldwork Fiji and Kiribati as part a her doctoral research on “country ownership” and how Pacific island countries are seeking to shape their aid partnerships, which is contributing to our research on the dynamics of development partnerships in the region. George Carter also progressed his doctoral research on Pacific coalition diplomacy in climate change negotiation. To inform his research on the process of policy making regarding climate change and the negotiation strategies of Pacific island countries in international negotiations, he attended the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris as a member of the Samoan delegation.

Overall our research is highlighting the increasing dynamism in regional politics and how traditional powers like Australia need to recalibrate their understanding and engagement with international relations in the Pacific. In 2016/17 we will continue to analyse the impact of new external partners on regional politics and international relations. This research will continue to build knowledge on the role of China as a key economic and development partner. We will also follow closely debate on reforming regional architecture, and plan to undertake new research on the Melanesian Spearhead Group and its influence on regional politics.
CDI has been co-located with and operated by SSGM since October 2013, resulting in benefits to both SSGM and CDI, including a strengthened research-policy-programming nexus. In 2015/16 CDI continued to provide programmatic support for democratic institutions in the region and to progress research to inform democratic governance programming in the region. Frequent and regular interaction between SSGM researchers and CDI program staff has encouraged collaboration and provided opportunities for research to contribute to evidenced-based policy guidance and enhanced program design.

**Parliamentary Support**

In 2015/16 CDI continued to support Melanesian parliaments. In accordance with international lessons learned regarding the importance of donor coordination in delivering effective parliamentary assistance, CDI, supported by Program Manager Warwick Connell, worked in partnership with the Australian Parliament and Queensland Parliament to support the eleventh Parliament of Vanuatu. In 2016 Members of the Parliament of Vanuatu participated in two parliamentary skills development courses—one in Brisbane and one in Canberra—that focussed on building knowledge of parliamentary process and procedures. CDI also provided support for the twinning partnership between the parliaments of Australia, Queensland and PNG, which worked in collaboration with the UNDP Parliamentary Strengthening Program. The program of support to the PNG Parliament focussed on improving the function of parliamentary committees and mentoring for the Deputy Speaker. In 2016/17 we will continue to support the provision of technical assistance to the Parliament of Vanuatu, particularly in the development of human and financial resources strategies and in relation to the proposed constitutional amendment process.

**Women’s Political Representation**

Women’s political participation and representation is a priority for CDI. As mentioned in the Events section of this report, in June 2016 CDI co-hosted a three-day workshop on Improving Women’s Electoral Chances Through an Evidence-based Approach in partnership with SSGM. The workshop brought together members of parliaments and provincial assemblies from across the Pacific region; former candidates; representatives from government agencies, civil society organisations and development partners; and academics to consider options for more effective development partner support to women candidates. In 2016/17, following on from this workshop, CDI, working in collaboration with SSGM’s Kerryn Baker, will provide technical support on policy and legislative options for improving women’s political representation in Vanuatu. CDI is also planning to work with the PNG Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPPC) to conduct workshops for women intending to contest the 2017 PNG elections. The workshop content will build on the evidence regarding campaigning strategies employed by women who have won, or performed well, in recent elections in Melanesia.

**Electoral Administration**

CDI continues to contribute to policy discussions on election management issues in Melanesia. In 2015/16 we facilitated discussions among policy stakeholders on preparations for the PNG national election due to be held in 2017. We also contributed to ongoing research on elections and electoral politics in the region. In March 2016 CDI partnered with SSGM in the observation of the 2016 Samoan general election.

**Issues-Based Engagement and Urbanisation Research**

As discussed in the Urbanisation section of this report, in 2015 CDI initiated a research partnership with SSGM on the politics of urbanisation. The aim of this research is to improve our understanding of how urban communities participate in politics to influence urban development. As a part of this research, in early 2016 Julien Barbara and Meg Keen conducted institutional mapping, stakeholder interviews and co-hosted a research workshop with private sector representatives in Solomon Islands. Research findings will inform the nature of support to improve urban groups’ political participation and involvement in policy processes.
Politics, Governance and Democracy in the Region

The rise of money politics is influencing the nature of democratic politics in the region and affecting the capacity of democratic institutions to support accountable government and inclusive policy making. In 2016 CDI partnered with SSGM to progress public debate on issues of money politics, constituency development funding, governance and democracy PNG and Solomon Islands. CDI supported the visit by Hon Rick Hou, serving Member of Solomon Islands Parliament, to Canberra to contribute to research on decentralisation, constituency development funding and implications for democracy.

CDI also hosted a seminar by Alina Rocha Menocal, Senior Research Fellow with the Developmental Leadership Program, on the complex relationships between democracy and development. In June 2016 Anthony Regan represented CDI at a regional conference on Political and Parliamentary Stability and Development in Melanesia, hosted by the UNDP. He gave a paper on the development consequences of political system engineering efforts in Melanesia.

In 2016/17 CDI will co-host a stream of SSGM’s annual State of the Pacific conference, which will explore a range of issues including the relationship between democracy and development outcomes in the region; political transitions in Bougainville, Fiji and New Caledonia; and media freedom, access to information, and online activism in the Pacific. CDI also plans to partner with the PNG IPPCC in hosting a series of workshops on the consequences of increasing constituency development funding for governance in PNG.
In 2015/16 SSGM hosted a number of conferences, workshops and seminars to present and discuss the findings of our research and to facilitate collaboration with researchers, policymakers and practitioners in Australia and from the region. In 2016/17 we will continue to host events to communicate our research findings and those of other Pacific researchers, and to provide forums for discussing the implications of our research for policies and programs in and on the region.

**Solomon Islands National Land Reform Conference**

**26 August 2015**

SSGM’s research on land reform in Solomon Islands, carried out in partnership with the Solomon Islands Government during 2015, culminated with the launch of the Building a Pathway for Successful Land Reform in Solomon Islands research report at the National Land Reform Conference on 26 August. The conference, which was opened by Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, was hosted by the Solomon Islands Government with support from SSGM.

The conference was designed to contribute to policy debate around land reform in Solomon Islands by considering different pathways to land reform based upon experiences from elsewhere in Melanesia, as well as positive examples from Solomon Islands. Melanesian land reform experts shared their experiences of the strengths and weaknesses of different land reform models in the region, and offered practical lessons that might inform an inclusive land reform approach in Solomon Islands.

The National Land Reform Conference was attended by a range of stakeholders, including the Solomon Islands Prime Minister, other Ministers and MPs, provincial Premiers, traditional landowners and students, heads of foreign missions, and representatives from the donor community. Building on the momentum of the conference, the Solomon Islands Government held a technical workshop on Thursday 27 August 2015 to consider the next steps—policy and administrative—required to build a pathway to successful land reform in the country.
State of the Pacific Conference 2015
7-9 September 2015

The third annual State of the Pacific conference explored ways in which Pacific islanders are seeking to shape their own futures in response to internal and external pressures, and the ways in which Pacific societies, institutions and systems are evolving as a result. A showcase for research on the Pacific region, State of the Pacific 2015 brought together academics, policy makers, business leaders, civil society representatives and the media from across the region and Australia to present and discuss current research on the Pacific and to explore the vital links between research and policy.

The headline theme for State of the Pacific 2015 was the 40th anniversary of PNG’s Independence. A number of sessions addressed aspects of contemporary PNG, including the changing relationship between PNG’s citizens and the state, the ways in which services are delivered, and the ways in which courts and laws are understood to function. The conference also considered where Bougainville is headed in light of its recent elections and rising expectations about a referendum on its future within PNG. The Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, opened State of the Pacific for the second year running. The Minister reflected on some of the key challenges and opportunities facing the region over the preceding 12 months, from the effects of Cyclone Pam to developments under the Seasonal Worker Program and the New Colombo Plan. PNG Chief Justice Sir Salamo Injia; Bougainville President Hon John Momis; and former Member of the Parliament of PNG Nahau Rooney, gave keynote addresses at the conference in which they reflected on the experience of PNG’s 40 years as an independent state as well as on what the future might hold for PNG in light of its experience to date.

A second key focus of the conference was gender and health in the Pacific, with sessions addressing women’s leadership and political participation, women’s economic empowerment, and violence against women. Current responses to HIV in New Guinea were also explored, as were health challenges in the region arising from non-communicable diseases in a session convened by colleagues at ANU’s Development Policy Centre.

People and the environment provided the third thematic focus the conference. Panelists discussed the El Nino induced drought and frosts in PNG and related threats to food security. The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP joined a panel discussion on Pacific-centred responses to climate change. The Hon Ralph Regenvanu, serving Vanuatu MP, joined the session on pathways to recovery for Vanuatu following the devastation wrought by Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015 and implications for government, donors and other actors.

Transitions and trends across the Pacific region was the fourth thematic focus of the conference. The stresses and strains influencing Pacific regionalism; government and donor responses to challenges and opportunities presented by urbanisation; and the implications of the continued growth of constituency development funds controlled by MPs in a number of Pacific Islands were addressed. The role of ICTs in politics and development in the region; the relationship between extractive industries and peace and conflict in the region; and the extent to which existing labour mobility programs are realising the ‘triple win’ for governments, employers and for workers were also be explored.
Timor-Leste's emergence from the political and security crisis of 2006 has been underpinned by government policies that have broadened state expenditures and social transfers to provide tangible benefits for much of the population. Since the 2012 national elections, politics has also evolved to emphasise cooperation and 'national interest' over partisan rivalry. In February 2015 the appointment as Prime Minister of Dr Rui Araujo from the opposition minority party Fretilin ushered in a new government that is now broadly inclusive of the main political parties represented in parliament, with a mandate to promote national inclusiveness and unity of purpose.

In appointing the VIth Constitutional Government, the President of Timor-Leste commented that the reins were being passed ‘from the generation which has conquered liberation to that which must conquer development’. The new government is confronted with significant economic and social challenges including declining revenues, a weak labour market, rapid urbanisation and high population growth. Despite the dramatic and rapid expansion of government expenditures in recent years, Timor-Leste still has high levels of poverty and there is evidence of a growing gap between rich and poor. Meanwhile, the terms of Timor-Leste’s engagement with its immediate geographic region and other forms of association remain a work in progress.

The 2015 Timor-Leste Update, which took place over two days, considered the ‘terms of inclusion’ in contemporary Timor-Leste: the positioning of different societal and political interests, and the challenges, trade-offs and risks that confront them and that confront Timor-Leste as a whole. The Update brought together a high-quality range and representative balance of speakers from both government and non-government/academic sectors; established and emerging speakers; and Australian and Timorese speakers. It provided a platform for speakers to air issues on a range of fundamental themes that are critical to Timor-Leste’s future development, and which also engage with a range of core Australian national interests: budgetary priorities and the fiscal sustainability of Timor-Leste’s current budget trajectory; the economic and social impact of the two current ‘mega-projects’; the nature and durability of the current political ‘entente cordiale’; Timor-Leste’s place in the region and aspiration to join ASEAN; discrimination and violence against women and against disabled people.

Keynote addresses delivered by His Excellency Agio Pereira, Timorese Government Minister of State and of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, and His Excellency António da Conceição, Timorese Government Minister of State, Coordinator of Social Affairs and Minister of Education framed critical issues that were addressed throughout the Update.

In order to ensure the widest possible dissemination of ideas canvassed at the Update, including among the community in Timor-Leste itself, a series of papers were published in SSGM's In Brief and Discussion Paper series in the wake of the Update.
New Caledonia Workshop
15 April 2016

The people of New Caledonia are expected to go to the polls in 2018 to determine whether or not to remain within the French Republic. The New Caledonia Workshop, which was held in partnership with the Pacific Institute, brought together researchers from around Australia and from New Caledonia to discuss some of the key issues facing local political leaders and the New Caledonian population at large in the lead up to the referendum. The workshop included presentations from both Anglophone and Francophone researchers with various experiences in the field in New Caledonia. Notably, it heard presentations from two PhD students from Université de la Nouvelle-Calédonie—Lucia Xewe and Ornella Seignury—visiting ANU as a part the Professor Darrell Tryon Research Scholarship.

Presenters and presentation topics included:

> Denise Fisher on geostrategic factors against which the discussions about the future of New Caledonia are taking place and considerations important for Australia.
> Nic Maclellan on obstacles affecting the transition towards a new political status for New Caledonia.
> Scott Robertson on questions of citizenship, legitimacy and belonging in the context of New Caledonia.
> Kerryn Baker on the implementation of parity laws, which mandate that political parties put forward equal numbers of male and female candidates, in New Caledonia since 2004.
> Chloe Tiennot on the impact of French colonial institutions on New Caledonian economic development.
> Lucia Xewe on the determinants of educational attainment and links between on-the-job training and initial education in New Caledonia.
> Ornella Seigneury on the human right to the environment in New Caledonia and how such rights might be reflected in a pluralistic legal system.
> Matthias Kowasch on the nickel sector in New Caledonia and the participation of the indigenous Kanak communities living in the vicinity of the Koniambo smelter.
> Anu Bisoonauth-Bedford on language attitudes in New Caledonia.

Improving Women’s Electoral Chances though an Evidence-Based Approach
21-23 June 2016

Women’s political representation at the national level in the Pacific islands region remains very low. Overall there are just 28 (5.6 per cent) female parliamentarians in the region, well below the global average of 23 per cent. While women’s political representation has been increasing over time in the Pacific, it has done so at a far slower rate than in other regions.

Support from development partners intended to improve the electoral prospects of women candidates has ostensibly not made a significant difference. This is partly because getting elected in Melanesia is difficult for most candidates and because women face particularly acute structural and cultural barriers when running for office. However, available evidence also suggests that there is a gap between the types of support that development partners provide and the political realities women candidates face in trying to get elected.

From 21-23 June 2016 CDI and SSGM hosted a workshop entitled Improving Women’s Electoral Chances though an Evidence-Based Approach. The workshop brought together members of parliaments and provincial assemblies from the region, and representatives from government agencies, civil society organisations and development partners to discuss the challenges women candidates face in conducting successful election campaigns, and, in this context, to consider the nature of assistance that development partners might provide to best support women candidates to improve their electoral prospects.

CDI and SSGM are preparing a synthesis report on workshop deliberations and a series of policy briefs to inform development partner efforts in the region. Workshop deliberations are also already informing SSGM and CDI’s research programs and engagement on women in politics.
SSGM's seminar series showcases findings from research on Melanesia and the broader Pacific, as well as comparative research from outside of the region. It also provides a platform for distinguished Pacific islanders to discuss issues facing contemporary Melanesia. The audience for our seminars is diverse, which provides a great basis for interesting discussion on topical issues. In 2015/16 we hosted 31 seminars and public lectures. SSGM seminar podcasts are available at: http://ssgm.bellschool.anu.edu.au/news-events/podcasts/audio/all

In addition to our seminars, SSGM held PhD Colloquiums in November 2015 and March 2016. Twenty seminars were delivered in the two colloquiums, which provided opportunities for SSGM PhD scholars to present their thesis proposal seminars, mid-term review seminars and pre-submission seminars.

SSGM Seminars

The 2015 Bougainville Election
Kerryn Baker and Thiago Cintra Oppermann, Research Fellows, SSGM, 20 July 2015

Reaching Out Across Melanesia: The 20th Summit of the Melanesian Spearhead Group
Nic Maclellan, Journalist, Islands Business, 27 July 2015

Islands, Enclaves and Violence: Sociospatial Perspectives on Resource Conflict in Island Melanesia
Mathew Allen, Fellow, SSGM, 3 August 2015

Corporate Security Practices and Human Rights in West Papua
Kylie McKenna, Research Fellow, SSGM, 10 August 2015

Sports Diplomacy in the Pacific and Australia
Roannie Ng Shiu, Research Fellow, SSGM; Nigel Vagana, Welfare and Education Manager, National Rugby League; Dean Widders, Welfare and Education Manager, National Rugby League; Iosia Soliola, Canberra Raiders, 17 August 2015

Labour Mobility Impacts at Home: An Update
Rochelle Bailey, Research Fellow, SSGM, 24 August 2015

Informality's Elusive Thread: Policy Debates in Late Colonial Port Moresby
John Conroy, Visiting Fellow, Crawford School, 31 August 2015

PNG: 40 Years after Independence
Sam Koim, Department of Justice and Attorney General, Papua New Guinea, 10 September 2015
Hosted in partnership with the PNG Canberra Students Association

Oil Palm Expansion and Rural Livelihoods in North Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands
Lincy Pendeverana, PhD Candidate, SSGM, 14 September 2015

PNG: 40 Years after Independence
Hon Chief John Momis, President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, 15 September 2015
Hosted in partnership with the PNG Canberra Students Association

PNG: 40 Years after Independence
His Excellency Charles W Lepani, High Commissioner of the Independent State of PNG, 16 September 2015
Hosted in partnership with the PNG Canberra Students Association

Kins and Gifts
Tony Hiriasia, Masters Scholar, University of the South Pacific, 21 September 2015
Indigenous Commercial Ambitions and Decentralisation: The Initial Provincial Government Debate in Papua New Guinea Reconstructed
Scott MacWilliam, Visiting Fellow, SSGM, 12 October 2015

Sorcery, Christianity and the Decline of Medical Services in Melanesia
John Cox, Research Fellow, SSGM, Georgina Phillips, Honorary, Medicine, St Vincent's Hospital, 19 October 2015

Changing Attitudes to Marriage among Women in Papua New Guinea
Melissa Demian, Research Fellow, SSGM, Ceridwen Spark, Vice Chancellor’s Senior Research Fellow, RMIT, 26 October 2015

Frost and Drought in Papua New Guinea: An Update
Mike Bourke, Visiting Fellow, SSGM, Bryant Allen, Visiting Fellow, SSGM, 2 November 2016

Colonialism and Disaffection in Fiji’s Methodist Mission
Kirstie Close-Barry, 16 November 2015

How Change Happens, with Reflections from Melanesia
Duncan Green, Oxfam GB Strategic Adviser, 4 December 2016

A Day in the Life of an MP in Solomon Islands
The Hon Rick Houenipwela MP, Solomon Islands Parliament, 4 April 2016

Female Candidates, Quota Implementation and the Women’s Representation Question in the 2016 Samoan Election
Kerryn Baker, Research Fellow, SSGM, 11 April 2016

“Worlds in Collision”: An Inquiry into the Sources of Corruption within Vanuatu government and Society
Gregoire Nimbtik, PhD Scholar, RMIT, 18 April 2016

Leadership Challenges of Autonomous Government
The Hon Patrick Nisira MP, Vice President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, 28 April 2016

‘Beyond Next Tomorrow’: An Examination of Urban Male Youth in Solomon Islands
Daniel Evans, PhD Candidate, SSGM, 2 May 2016

Reporting Corruption in Papua New Guinea’s Public Financial Management System
Amanda H A Watson, Visiting Fellow, SSGM, Colin Wiltshire, Research Fellow, SSGM, 9 May 2016

Nauru’s Retreat from Democracy
Stewart Firth, Fellow, SSGM, 16 May 2016

‘Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose...from “Black-Birding” to the Pacific Seasonal Work Programs’
Scott MacWilliam, Visiting Fellow, SSGM, 23 May 2016

Reimagining Timor-Leste: Nationalism and the role of education in post-independence nation-building
Armindo Maia, PhD Scholar, SSGM, 30 May 2016

The Pulse of the Nation: Polling Political Opinions at the Samoa Election
Roannie Ng Shiu, Research Fellow, SSGM and George Carter, PhD Scholar, SSGM, Monday 6 June, 2016

Solomon Islands: Which Way?
Conversation 1: Solomon Islands: Foreign Relations and Pacific Regional Diplomacy
Gordon Darcy Lilo, former Solomon Islands Prime Minister, 10 June 2016

Solomon Islands: Which Way?
Conversation 2: Solomon Islands: Political Culture, Elections and Statebuilding
Gordon Darcy Lilo, former Solomon Islands Prime Minister, 14 June 2016

Stories from the Inside: How We Got Women onto Municipal Councils in Vanuatu and What Happened Next...
Dorosday Kenneth Watson, Director of the Department of Women’s Affairs, and Tess Newton Cain, Principal, TNC Pacific Consulting, 20 June 2016
SSGM regularly publishes its research and analysis on topics of interest to academics, policymakers and development practitioners interested in contemporary Melanesia and the wider Pacific in a range of fora. Our publication output in 2015/16 comprised publications in our Discussion Paper and In Brief series and works produced in more traditional academic publications. More information on our published work in 2015/16 is listed below.

SSGM Discussion Paper series

Our flagship publication, the SSGM Discussion Paper series, was established in 1996. Since then 145 papers have been published in the series, which provided commentary and analysis on social, political, and development issues in the region. All SSGM Discussion Papers are available online at http://ssgm.bellschool.anu.edu.au/ssgm-research-communication/discussion-paper-series. In 2015/16 SSGM added the following 10 Discussion Papers to the series:

SSGM Discussion Paper 2015/8: Schooling as a ‘Stepping-Stone to National Consciousness’ in Solomon Islands: The Last Twenty Years
David Oakeshott, Matthew Allen

In 1995 Christine Jourdan (1995) identified education as one of three ‘stepping-stones to national consciousness’ for Solomon Islands (along with Pijin and popular culture). She noted that curriculum reform after independence in 1978 had shifted the history curriculum from one focused on Britain to one with local ‘heroes’ and specific Solomon Islands content. However, given it was only 15 years after independence, Jourdan concluded that it was still too early to evaluate the unifying role of schooling in Solomon Islands. Two decades after Jourdan’s initial assessment, and notwithstanding the achievements of the few relatively elite schools, the authors of this Discussion Paper contend that the formal curricular and pedagogical elements of schooling in Solomon Islands have as yet largely failed to fulfil their potential as a ‘stepping-stone to national consciousness’.

Miranda Forsyth

This Discussion Paper is intended to fill a gap in the literature concerning the Vanuatu judiciary, as this topic is rarely addressed other than in reports by international non-government organisations, such as Transparency International and its local chapter, Transparency International (Vanuatu), or bilateral donors and multilateral organisations engaged in law and justice work (which is often unpublished). The paper also identifies potential sources of influence that threaten judicial independence, and reflects upon what insights Vanuatu’s experiences may provide into the influence of informal networks on judicial independence more broadly. The paper also raises a number of unanswered questions relating to broader questions about the sources of respect for the judiciary in Vanuatu and the role of culture in relation to this respect.

Scott MacWilliam

Since independence in 1970, governments in Fiji have been most often described around two major themes. The first emphasises the race and/or ethnicity of the country’s governments, and whether they were led by Taukei or Indo-Fijians—prime ministers Ratu Sir Kamasese Mara, Timoci Bavadra, Sitiveni Rabuka, Laisenia Qarase, Josia Voreqe (Frank) Bainimarama, or Mahendra Chaudhry. Occasionally, class is injected into this description, usually in the Weberian form of race and class, ethnicity and class. The second theme has characterised governments according to whether they held power as the result of elections or as the consequence of parliamentary takeovers and coups.

While there have been accounts which do not follow these predominant themes, including from academics and others located within dependency thinking, their influence has been limited in the face of the continuing focus upon the identities of race/ethnicity and elections as the basis for government legitimacy. This Discussion Paper argues instead that the current government constitutes a particular, different and distinct form of class representation. While all governments in capitalist societies represent both capital and labour, the Bainimarama Government does so in a specific manner.
SSGM Discussion Paper 2015/11: Aspects of Mobile Phone Usage for Socioeconomic Development in Papua New Guinea

Joseph Suwamaru

This Discussion Paper outlines results of a survey that investigated aspects of mobile phone usage associated with healthcare, school systems and income-earning activities in PNG. The survey set out to investigate these aspects of mobile phone usage by interviewing 727 mobile phone users across seven provinces in PNG. Importantly, the survey found that mobile phones have beneficial uses for socioeconomic development in PNG. It found that mobile phones play supportive roles in healthcare and school systems. It also found that mobile phones are enablers of business as well as direct revenue earners in their own right via the sale of call credits and other associated accessories. However, there were also perceptions of adverse aspects of mobile phone usage as people grappled with this pervasive device. This paper ends by calling for policy and regulatory safeguards in the information and communications technology sector to promote healthy growth and the continuance of fair service tariffs.

SSGM Discussion Paper 2015/12: The Political Economy of the Transition from Logging to Mining in Solomon Islands

Doug Porter, Matthew Allen

It remains very difficult to predict the respective contributions that logging and mining will make to the Solomon Islands economy in the coming years. That said, the authors of this Discussion Paper proceed from the assumption that logging appears to be on the wane at the same time that there has been a marked intensification of activity in the mining sector. The paper therefore asks two related questions: What might be the political economic effects of an expansion in large-scale mining? And what could be learned from logging that might be relevant to mining? Although mining and logging are different in many ways, which the authors discuss, they argue that mining will amplify three issues already familiar from logging, namely, i) disputes around the deal-making process, ii) problems of local social order, and iii) longstanding grievances about how revenues are shared and spent. Further, whilst a suite of technical measures may be available to address, if not resolve, these inherently political issues, it is by no means clear that Solomon Islands’ political economy will be conducive to their careful consideration, let alone subsequent adoption.


Meabh Cryan

The transitional land law consultation process of 2009 implemented by the Timor-Leste government, with funding and technical support from USAID and the World Bank Justice for the Poor unit, is often hailed as one of the most consultative public policy processes in the short history of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (Ministerio Justisa 2009; Scott 27/9/2011; Srinivas and Keith 2015; UNDP Timor-Leste 2013). This Discussion Paper argues that in reality the process was deeply flawed and ultimately that it has not led to the protection of land rights. The paper documents the consultation process of the 2009 Timor-Leste Transitional Land Law and in the absence of a genuine consultation process examines the methods that civil society and community groups used to shape and influence the land law. As such it seeks to contribute to both debates around the role of citizen participation in complex policy design processes and scholarship on the roles and patterns of civil society interventions in land policy in Timor-Leste.


Kerryn Baker

This Discussion Paper examines the question of how women contest and win elections in Bougainville, through an analysis of the campaign experiences of successful, near-successful and less successful women candidates. It adds to the empirical literature on women’s political representation in the region through an in-depth study of women candidates in the 2015 Bougainville election: their profiles, motivations and campaign strategies. Furthermore, it analyses the impacts of three issues that emerged as common themes in discussions around women’s participation in political decisionmaking in Bougainville: the electoral system, money politics and matrilineal traditions.

Meabh Cryan

This Discussion Paper anticipates the potential impacts and impoverishment risks of the Suai Supply Base Project in Timor-Leste, paying particular attention to the project’s likely gendered impacts and the evolving tensions between the state’s powers to expropriate land and customary land access. In doing so it draws on Cernea’s framework for identifying the impoverishment risks of large-scale land acquisitions (Cernea 1997, 2000) and Behrman et al.’s (2012) analysis of the gender implications of large-scale land deals. The first section describes patterns of land access and the vulnerability and dependency of local communities on land. The second section details the politics of the Suai Supply Base and the process of land acquisition. This is followed by discussion of some of the potential impacts that the land acquisition may have on local communities in Suai.


Scott MacWilliam

This Discussion Paper argues that the initial mid-1970s establishment of provincial governments as forms of decentralised authority has been misunderstood. Anthony Regan, to cite one instance, has argued that there was intended to be ‘a radical redistribution of power, requiring the creation of new centres of power able to act as a counterbalance to the central government as well as operate as new arenas for resolution of local tensions and disputes’ (1992:9). Instead, here it is argued that the principal determinant of the constitutional reforms was the continuing drive by indigenes to open up space in the postcolonial state so that their hold on political power could be transformed into commercial opportunities.

SSGM Discussion Paper 2015/16: A Year in the Life of an Australian Member of the PNG Judiciary

John Logan

In September 2011, the author of the Discussion Paper was one of two Federal Court of Australia judges appointed to the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to sit on civil and commercial appeals. The paper provides a personal account of the author’s first year as a member of the PNG judiciary. This was an eventful and tumultuous year which saw the PNG Supreme Court order that the Hon. Sir Michael Somare be restored to the office of prime minister; simmering political tensions which followed that decision; the arrest of the Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia; a permanent stay of criminal proceedings against the Chief Justice; the enactment of the Judicial Conduct Act 2012 (PNG), which undermined the independence of the judiciary, and subsequent challenge to the validity of that Act; a further sedition charge being laid against the Chief Justice; and a national election. The author explores the impact of these events on the PNG judiciary. He also discusses options relating to the proposed establishment of a permanent Court of Appeal and an ultimate appellate court for PNG.
SSGM's In Brief series was established in 2013 as part of our effort to make our research and analysis more accessible to non-academic audiences. Primarily an online publication, the series presents academic research, commentary and analysis in a concise two-page format, designed expressly for policymakers and development practitioners. SSGM's In Briefs are available at: http://ssgm.bellschool.anu.edu.au/ssgm-research-communication/brief-series. SSGM produced the following 61 In-Briefs in 2015/16:

In Brief 2015/30a: Assessing the Shift to Limited Preferential Voting in Papua New Guinea: Electoral Outcomes
Nicole Haley

In Brief 2015/30b: Assessing the Shift to Limited Preferential Voting in Papua New Guinea: Money Politics
Nicole Haley, Kerry Zubrinich

In Brief 2015/31: Improving Women’s Political Representation in the Pacific: The Emerging Evidence
Nicole Haley, Kerry Zubrinich

In Brief 2015/32: Australia’s Seasonal Worker Program: Potential Contribution to Host Communities
Rochelle Bailey, Roannie Ng Shiu

In Brief 2015/33: Women’s Under-Representation and Special Measures in the Tongan Parliament
Kerryn Baker

In Brief 2015/34: Papua New Guinea’s Aid Program in the Region
James Batley

In Brief 2015/35: Mining and Reconciliation: Negotiating the Future of the Panguna Mine in Bougainville
Kylie McKenna

In Brief 2015/36: Sustaining the Gains in Post-RAMSI Solomon Islands
Sinclair Dinnen, Matthew Allen

In Brief 2015/37: The Long Election: When Do We Stop Observing?
John Cox

In Brief 2015/38: Intellectual Property Policy in Solomon Islands: Who is Really Playing the Tune?
Miranda Forsyth

In Brief 2015/39: Will a Major El Niño Event Disrupt Village Food Production in Papua New Guinea in 2015?
Bryant Allen

In Brief 2015/40: Will Papua New Guinea Be Able to Feed Itself in 2050?
Bryant Allen

In Brief 2015/41: Timor-Leste’s New Way of ‘Doing Politics’ … and Will It Last?
Sue Ingram, Armindo Maia

In Brief 2015/42: Fiji Flag Change: Social Media Responds
Jope Tarai, Glen Finau, Romitesh Kant, Jason Titifanue

In Brief 2015/43: An Overview of Women Candidate Performance in Papua New Guinea Elections
Theresa Meki

In Brief 2015/44: Money and Value in Urban Settlement Households in Port Moresby Part 2: Understanding Spatial and Income Inequality through Housing Choices
Michelle Nayahamui Rooney

In Brief 2015/45: The Six Billion Kina Answer
Graeme Smith

In Brief 2015/46: Justice Delivered Locally in Rural Solomon Islands
Sinclair Dinnen
In Brief 2015/47: Impacts of the Suai Supply Base Project in Timor-Leste
Meabh Cryan

In Brief 2015/48: And Then There Were Three: A New Chinese Miner in Papua New Guinea
Graeme Smith, Sinclair Dinnen

In Brief 2015/49: The Election of Josephine Getsi — Making Political History in Bougainville
Kerryn Baker, Thiago Cintra Oppermann

In Brief 2015/50: Hybridity in Peacebuilding and Development: A Critical Interrogation
Sinclair Dinnen, Lia Kent

In Brief 2015/51: Pacific Labour Mobility: Removing the Gender Blinkers
Rochelle Ball, Rochelle Bailey, Nicole Haley, Meg Keen

In Brief 2015/52: Engaging Indigenous Leaders in Tanah Papua’s HIV Responses
Jenny Munro

In Brief 2015/53: To Regulate or Not: Fiji’s Social Media
Jope Tarai

In Brief 2015/54: The Blue Economy: Plenty of Potential
Meg Keen, Quentin Hanich

In Brief 2015/55: Why Pastoral Care Policy Affects Experiences, Productivity & Uptake in Seasonal Worker Programs
Rochelle Bailey

In Brief 2015/56: Show Me the Selen: A Fiscal Snapshot of Honiara, Solomon Islands
Daniel Evans

In Brief 2015/57: China–New Zealand–Cook Islands Triangular Aid Project on Water Supply
Denghua Zhang

In Brief 2015/58: Women as Poverty Managers: New Insights into ‘Feminisation’ of Family Responsibility in Fiji
Priya Chattier

In Brief 2015/59: Intersectional Discrimination and Women’s Political Participation in Fiji
Priya Chattier

In Brief 2015/60: State of the Service: Women’s Participation in the PNG Public Sector
Nicole Haley

In Brief 2015/61: ‘There Is Relief That It Seems to Be Working’: BP’s Integrated Community-Based Security Strategy in West Papua
Kylie McKenna

In Brief 2015/62: Urban Melanesia: Insights from the European Society for Oceanists
John Cox

In Brief 2015/63: Women in Fiji’s Political Party Structures: Part 1
Priya Chattier

In Brief 2015/64: Pacific Urbanisation: Changing Times
Meg Keen, Julien Barbara

In Brief 2015/65: ‘Fourteen Jailed’: Politics and Justice in Vanuatu
Miranda Forsyth

In Brief 2015/66: Politicising Drought Relief in Papua New Guinea
Colin Wiltshire, Thiago Cintra Oppermann

In Brief 2015/67: Constituency Development Funds in Solomon Islands: State of Play
James Batley

In Brief 2015/68: Marie Stopes, Family Planning and Genocide in Bougainville
Richard Eves
In Brief 2015/69: Supporting Elections in Melanesia
Julien Barbara

In Brief 2015/70: China’s Blue Book of Oceania
Graeme Smith, Denghua Zhang

In Brief 2016/1: Women in Fiji’s Political Party Structures: Part 2
Priya Chattier

In Brief 2016/2: The 1978 Commonwealth Games: How a Boxer Brought a New Country Together
Sir Manasupe Zurenuoc, Felicity Herbert

In Brief 2016/3: Assessing the Terms of Inclusion in the State of Timor-Leste
Sue Ingram, Lia Kent

In Brief 2016/4: ZEESM: Destructive ‘Development’ in Timor’s Special Economic Zone
Michael Rose

In Brief 2016/5: Oecusse’s Special Economic Zone and Local Governance
Laura Meitzner Yoder

In Brief 2016/6: The Political Economy of Petroleum Dependency
Guteriano Neves

In Brief 2016/7: The Highest Glass Ceiling — Women, Politics and Executive Power in the Pacific
Kerryn Baker

In Brief 2016/8: What Women (Candidates) Want
Kerry Zubrinich

In Brief 2016/9: Urban Politics in Melanesia: Shallow Roots
Julien Barbara, Meg Keen

In Brief 2016/10: An Unlikely Alliance: Training NRL ‘Cultural Warriors’
Roannie Ng Shiu, Nigel Vagana

In Brief 2016/11: Sports Diplomacy in the Pacific: Developing Pacific Rugby League Elite Athletes for Diplomacy and Development
Roannie Ng Shiu

In Brief 2016/12: New Responses to Natural Disasters through Seasonal Labour Mobility Programs
Rochelle Bailey, Roannie Ng Shiu

In Brief 2016/13: After the Floods: Urban Displacement, Lessons from Solomon Islands
Meg Keen, Alan McNeil

In Brief 2016/14: Fiji’s New Parliament and Democracy
Avinash Kumar

In Brief 2016/15: Alcohol, Gender and Violence in Bougainville
Richard Eves

In Brief 2016/16: A Watershed Moment, or Business as Usual? Female Candidates and Quota Implementation in the 2016 Samoan Election
Kerryn Baker

In Brief 2016/17: The Relationship between Violence against Women and Women’s Economic Empowerment in Bougainville
Richard Eves

In Brief 2016/18: Steps Towards Achieving Inclusion for People with Disabilities in Timor-Leste
Joaozito Dos Santos and Elizabeth Morgan

In Brief 2016/19: West Papuan Refugees in Papua New Guinea: On the Way to Citizenship?
Jenny Munro
In 2015/16 SSGM academic staff, PhD students, and Visiting Fellows published extensively, including the following scholarly works:

**Books**

**Political Life Writing in the Pacific: Reflections on Practice**

Jack Corbett and Brij Lal (eds)

*ANU Press, 2015*

This book aims to reflect on the experiential side of writing political lives in the Pacific region. The collection touches on aspects of the life writing art that are particularly pertinent to political figures: public perception and ideology; identifying important political successes and policy initiatives; grappling with issues like corruption and age-old political science questions about leadership and ‘dirty hands’. These are general themes but they take on a particular significance in the Pacific context and so the contributions explore these themes in relation to patterns of colonisation and the memory of independence; issues elliptically captured by terms like ‘culture’ and ‘tradition’; the nature of ‘self’ presented in Pacific life writing; and the tendency for many of these texts to be written by ‘outsiders’, or at least the increasingly contested nature of what that term means.

This book emerged from a workshop symposium on political life writing held at ANU in October 2012, which was by SSGM and the ANU School of Culture, History and Language’s Research Committee.

**Being Political: Leadership and Democracy in the Pacific Islands**

Jack Corbett

*University of Hawai’i Press, 2015*

Politicians everywhere tend to attract cynicism and inspire disillusionment. They are supposed to epitomize the promise of democratic government and yet invariably find themselves cast as the enemy of every virtue that system seeks to uphold. In the Pacific, “politician” has become a byword for corruption, graft, and misconduct. This was not always the case—the independence generation is still remembered as strong leaders—but today’s leaders are commonly associated with malaise and despair. Once heroes of self-determination, politicians are now the targets of donor attempts to institute “good governance,” while Fiji’s 2006 coup was partly justified on the grounds that they needed “cleaning up.”

But who are these much-maligned figures? How did they come to arrive in politics? What is it like to be a politician? Why do they enter, stay, and leave? Drawing on more than 110 interviews and other published sources, including autobiographies and biographies, Being Political provides a collective portrait of the region’s political elite. This is an insider account of political life in the Pacific as seen through the eyes of those who have done the job.

We learn that politics is a messy, unpredictable, and, at times, dirty business that nonetheless inspires service and sacrifice. We come to understand how being a politician has changed since independence and consider what this means for how we think about issues of corruption and misconduct. We find that politics is deeply embedded in the lives of individuals, families, and communities; an account that belies the common characterization of democracy in the Pacific as a “façade” or “foreign flower.”

Ultimately, this is a sympathetic counter-narrative to the populist critique. We come to know politicians as people with hopes and fears, pains and pleasures, vices and virtues. A reminder that politicians are human—neither saints nor sinners—is timely given the wave of cynicism and disaffection. As such, this book is a must read for all those who believe in the promise of representative government.

**Weaving Intellectual Property Policy in Small Island Developing States**

Miranda Forsyth and Sue Farran

*Intersentia, September 2015*

This book considers the challenges of creating appropriate intellectual property frameworks in developing economies. It focuses on the small island states of the Pacific region to explore and illustrate the many dilemmas, drawing together considerations of policy, theories of development and law, and empirical studies to suggest solutions and possible strategies.

**Master Poets, Ritual Masters: The Art of Oral Composition among the Rotenese of Eastern Indonesia**

James Fox

*ANU Press, April 2016*

This is a study in oral poetic composition. It examines how oral poets compose their recitations. Specifically, it is a study of the recitations of 17 separate master poets from the Island of Rote recorded over a period of 50 years. Each of these poets offers his version of what is culturally considered to be the ‘same’ ritual chant. These compositions are examined in detail and their oral formulae are carefully compared to one another.
A New Era? Timor-Leste after the UN
Sue Ingram, Lia Kent and Andrew McWilliam (eds)
ANU Press, 2015

Timor-Leste has made impressive progress since its historic achievement of independence in 2002. From the instability that blighted its early years, the fledgling democratic country has achieved strong economic growth and a gradual reinstatement of essential social services. A decade on in 2012, Presidential and Parliamentary elections produced smooth political transitions and the extended UN peacekeeping presence in the country came to an end. But significant challenges remain. This book, a product of the inaugural Timor-Leste Update held at The Australian National University in 2013 to mark the end of Timor-Leste’s first decade as a new nation, brings together a vibrant collection of papers from leading and emerging scholars and policy analysts. Collectively, the chapters provide a set of critical reflections on recent political, economic and social developments in Timor-Leste. The volume also looks to the future, highlighting a range of transitions, prospects and undoubted challenges facing the nation over the next 5–10 years. Key themes that inform the collection include nation-building in the shadow of history, trends in economic development, stability and social cohesion, and citizenship, democracy and social inclusion. The book is an indispensable guide to contemporary Timor-Leste.

Book Chapters

**Book Chapters in From ‘A New Era? Timor-Leste after the UN**
(2015)

**Introduction: Building the Nation: Legacies and Challenges for Timor-Leste**
Sue Ingram, Lia Kent and Andrew McWilliam (co-authors)
A New Era? Timor-Leste after the UN
ANU Press, Canberra, 2015

**‘Empty Land?’ The Politics of Land in Timor-Leste**
Meabh Cryan
A New Era? Timor-Leste after the UN
ANU Press, Canberra, 2015

**The ‘Pawa Meri’ Project**
Ceridwen Spark
Political Life Writing in the Pacific: Reflections on Practice
ANU Press, 2015

**Other book chapters**

**Nation-Building and the Development Case for Cultural Heritage**
Julien Barbara
Battlefield Events: Landscape, Commemoration and Heritage
Routledge, 2016

**Establishing a Pacific Voice in Climate Change Negotiations**
George Carter
The New Pacific Diplomacy
ANU Press, Canberra, 2015

**The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands – Achievements, Transitions and Prospects**
Sinclair Dinnen
A Region in Transition – Politics and Power in the Pacific Island Countries
Saarbrücken: Saarland University Press, Saarbrücken, Germany, 2016

**Making Room for Magic in Intellectual Property Policy**
Miranda Forsyth
Kritika: Essays on Intellectual Property
Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, UK, 2015

**Foreword**
James Fox
Pemburu yang Cekatan: Anjangsana bersama Karya-Karya E Douglas Lewis
Yogyakarta: Moya Zam Zam, 2015

**Introduction**
James Fox
Continuity and Creative Change: Pesantren Darul Ulum Jombang di Era Globalisasi
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Scott MacWilliam
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**Leadership Samoa Tracer Study Report**  
Roannie Ng Shiu  
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**Women's Political and Administrative Leadership in the Pacific**  
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Anthony Regan  
Report prepared for Autonomous Bougainville  

**Menyamya Joint District Assessment and Political Context Analysis**  
Colin Wiltshire and Theresa Meki  

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**Small-Scale Mining in Bougainville: Impacts and Policy Responses**  
Interim report on research findings  
Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh, Anthony Regan, Dennis Kikira and Simon Kenema, May 2016  
Research report from ADRAS funded project Small Scale and Illegal Mining in Bougainville: Impacts and Policy Responses

**Maximising the Development Impacts of the Seasonal Worker Program**  
Rochelle Bailey  
Review of literature and research recommendations for LMAP, June 2016
One of our core objectives is to train and mentor the current and next generation of Pacific researchers. In 2015/16 SSGM carried out a number of research capacity-building activities. We hosted our annual Pacific Research Colloquium (PRC), took the PRC concept of intensive research methodology training to the region by delivering tailored training courses for public servants in PNG and Vanuatu, and continued to provide teaching support to UPNG’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences. We also continued our Pacific Research Fellowship program, which provides support for academic researchers to conduct a program of research and writing at ANU for a period of 12-18 months. Furthermore, we hosted three Pacific Visitors, which provided opportunities for prominent Pacific islanders to spend time at SSGM, to inform our research, and to progress research and writing in areas of mutual interest.

Pacific Research Colloquium 2016

The PRC remains a major component of our commitment to building social science research skills in the Pacific, including Papua and Timor-Leste. The PRC provides an opportunity for early career social science researchers from the Pacific to work with experienced researchers in developing skills for social science research in the context of the Pacific. Developing the skills of the PRC participants begins from the time participants are selected to attend, usually about seven months ahead of the two-week intensive research training workshop held in Canberra. Participants are required to write a 6000-word paper concerning the research in which they are involved. SSGM then assigns at least two academic mentors—from SSGM and other parts of ANU—to provide detailed advice and guidance on developing the paper. Each participant is then required to revise their paper, taking account of mentors’ comments, in advance of the two-week intensive training course in Canberra. Participants meet their mentors during the first week of the PRC with the goal of further improving their paper. They present the paper to an audience of academics and their mentors in the second week of the PRC.

The 2016 PRC training workshop was held at ANU from Monday 25 January-Friday 5 February. Out of a competitive field of 114 applicants, 17 were awarded scholarships to attend the PRC: three from PNG; four from Fiji; four from Papua, Indonesia; two from Solomon Islands; two from Vanuatu; one from Timor-Leste; and one from New Caledonia. Three Bougainvillian researchers working on the Do No Harm: Understanding the Relationship between Women’s Economic Empowerment and Violence against Women in Melanesia also attended the PRC, two officers from the Samoan Office of the Electoral Commissioner, and a staff member from UPNG’s Department of Politics were also supported to participate in the PRC. Three SSGM PhD scholars and one Australian researcher also participated in the Colloquium. A special achievement in 2016 was that for the first time the PRC was recognised as an accredited ANU course called Introduction to Research in the Pacific: Methods and Research Design. SSGM PhD scholars undertook the two-week intensive course as compulsory coursework.

The first week of the PRC saw participants take part in interactive and hands-on sessions on research skills and methodologies. Sessions focussed on defining research problems, choosing appropriate research methods, quantitative and qualitative research methods, interview design and techniques, planning research projects, conducting fieldwork, approaches to data analysis, and skills for writing and disseminating research.

Participants presented their research papers throughout the second week and acted as discussants for fellow participants’ presentations.

As with previous years, in 2016 the intense research training in Canberra was complemented by a range of social and networking events. A welcome event hosted by SSGM at ANU was attended by a number of members of the Pacific diplomatic community in Canberra who later hosted participants in meetings at their respective commissions in Canberra. Participants also met with Hon Steven Ciobo MP, then Minister for International Development and the Pacific, which provided a welcome opportunity to discuss their research interests, and enjoyed a guided tour of Parliament House.

Elvira Rumkabu, a lecturer from Cenderawasih University, Papua, Indonesia, won the prize for best paper in the 2016 PRC. She was awarded a fellowship to return to Canberra for the 2016 State of the Pacific conference, and will present her ongoing research on the relationships between democracy and development in Papua.
Evaluations and feedback on the 2016 PRC were extremely positive. Participants said that their understanding of research methodology had improved greatly and they were looking forward to pursuing new research directions and techniques. They enjoyed the hands-on approach to learning. Some comments from the participants:

> The PRC is a very interesting programme. Things learned during my two weeks are really practical and relevant to work/study. The PRC facilitators and logistic officers are amazing and helpful. Will truly miss them. Thank you for your time and expertise.

> Thank you for inviting me to the PRC. I felt a great sense of belonging with exceptional early-career researchers. Thank you too for allowing me time (and space) to talk about examples of research approaches and conceptual frameworks currently being used in Aotearoa New Zealand. Faafetai tele lava.

> Before, I never knew in detail the methods and techniques but now I’ve really improved my research skills. I will go and help my other colleagues and help them with what I have learned.

> I got a lot of new material on doing research; meeting the honorable Pasifika researcher; meeting the Pasifika (Melanesian) brothers and sisters. In conclusion, PRC is a bridge to uniting future Melanesian leaders. God bless PRC for doing this.

> Really helped me improve my English; helped me with methodology; networking; I have so many research questions (which is good) that I can think of during my two-week time here for next research project.

> I learnt new specialized research techniques that can help me greatly improve my future work.

An unanticipated but exciting effect that we have seen emerging from the PRC over the past few years has been the creation of a vibrant online community of PRC alumni researchers. Successive groups of participants continue to engage with one another online through social media, including the PRC Facebook group. In 2016 several of the participants were also university lecturers in their home countries and reported sharing knowledge from the PRC with colleagues and students back home. Clearly there are opportunities for expanding and innovating the PRC to support this highly-engaged community of practitioners that will enhance our impact on social science research skills in the Pacific.
Betty Barkha  
Country: Fiji  
Research topic: Climate Change Resilience: Powered by Indigenous Women in the South Pacific

Eileen Bobone  
Country: PNG  
Research topic: Policy Versus Reality: The PNG School Learning Improvement Program

Mariana Buiney  
Country: Indonesia (Papua)  
Research topic: The Impacts of Trans-Border Crime on the Human Security of the People of Skouw and Adjoining Border Areas between the Republic of Indonesia and PNG

Lucy Hamago  
Country: PNG  
Research topic: Improving Management and Service Delivery at the Local Level Government

Kim Kenyon  
Country: Australia  
Research topic: Whose Question is it Anyway? Vanuatu, Workshop Fatigue and the Dangers of Agenda Driven Research

Lidis Lemos  
Country: PNG  
Research topic: Barriers to Women’s Meaningful Participation in Decision-making in All Government Structures: A case study of women in Obura Wonenara District in Eastern Highlands Province, PNG

Lavinia Mahit  
Country: New Zealand/Vanuatu  
Research topic: Ralph Regenvanu: Kastom in Contemporary Vanuatu

Shirley Mwanesalua  
Country: Solomon Islands  
Research topic: Blackbirding and its Consequences: Commemorating its 150th Anniversary

Gloria Nema  
Country: PNG  
Research topic: Awareness, Knowledge and Utilisation of Contraceptives by Wapi Women of the Menyamya District in PNG

Melyana Pugu  
Country: PNG  
Research topic: Model of Indonesia-PNG Border Area Management of Keerom District

Elvira Rumkabu  
Country: Indonesia (Papua)  
Research topic: Special Autonomy and Oppositional Dichotomies of ‘Komin’-‘Amber’ Identity in Papua Province

Jale Samuwai  
Country: Fiji  
Research topic: Determinants and Deterrents of Adopting Digital Financial Services in Rural Fiji

John Ta’amora  
Country: Solomon Islands  
Research topic: The Impact of RAMSI on Solomon Islands-Australia Foreign Relations
Maximus Tahu
Country: Timor-Leste
Research topic: Traditional Double Burden in Timor-Leste and its Relation to Productivity of Women in the Agriculture Sector

Jason Titifanue
Country: Fiji
Research topic: The Role of Information and Communication Technologies in Pacific Climate Change Activism

Rose Tofor
Country: Vanuatu
Research topic: Climate Change Education in Vanuatu

Losalini Vakau
Country: Fiji
Research topic: Women Market Vendors: Situational and Policy Analysis within a Gender Perspective

Meki Wetipo
Country: Indonesia (Papua)

Lucia Xewe
Country: New Caledonia
Research topic: Initial Training and On-the-job Training in New Caledonia: Complementarity or substitutability?

Researchers working on Bougainville component of the Do No Harm: Understanding the Relationship between Women’s Economic Empowerment and Violence against Women:
Genevieve Kouro
Country: PNG

Steven Simiha
Country: PNG

Irene Subalik
Country: PNG

Staff from the SOEC:
Ah Kau Palale
Country: Samoa

Francis Ainu
Country: Samoa

SSGM PhD Scholars
Mona Matepi
Research topic: Breaking Path-dependency: A political Economy Critique of Sea-bed mining in the Pacific Islands

Mary Walt
Research topic: Livelihoods and Marine Resource Use in Peri-urban Villages and Settlements in Coastal PNG

George Gavet
Research topic: Unintended Consequences of Success: Pacific Athletes in Australian National Rugby League
**Research Skills Training in the Region**

In 2015/16 SSGM took the PRC concept of intensive training in research methods to the region by delivering training courses for staff of the PNG CLRC and the Vanuatu Law Commission (VLC) responsible for providing evidence-based policy advice to governments. Four research staff of the PNG CLRC had participated in the 2015 PRC in January–February. Their positive reports back to the PNG CLRC led to a request from that organisation for SSGM to conduct a modified version of the PRC for its 25 staff. The intensive two-week course was conducted in Port Moresby from 21 October to 2 November 2015. Five SSGM scholars—Anthony Regan, Jenny Munro, Miranda Forsyth, Kylie McKenna and Sinclair Dinnen—facilitated the training program, together with Christopher Chevalier, ANU CASS PhD scholar and long-term trainer in Melanesia. In addition, several experienced PNG researchers, including two staff of the PNG NRI, co-facilitated half of the sessions.

ANU and the PNG CLRC entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for a five-year program of cooperation in an official ceremony during the program. The MOU provides for annual training conducted by SSGM for staff involved in providing evidence-based policy advice to the PNG government. SSGM scholars have had discussions with PNG CLRC Secretary, Eric Kwa, regarding the next training program. It is proposed that the forthcoming training, which is expected to be held later in 2016, will be for both newly recruited CLRC staff and for staff of other PNG law and justice agencies.

Following on from the training for PNG CLRC staff, in April 2016 SSGM scholars Miranda Forsyth and Anthony Regan delivered a week of intensive training in research methods for VLC staff. Following positive feedback on the value of the PNG CLRC workshop, the VLC invited SSGM to deliver a version of that course tailored to the needs of its staff. ANU also established a MOU with the VLC. The purpose of the MOU is to progress collaborative research between the institutions through a program of cooperation, training and research in the areas of law, policy and social change in Vanuatu. Specific activities under the MOU are to be developed over its term, but are anticipated to include further in-house training for VLC staff on research methods, project design and other aspects of research and analysis; mentoring for VLC staff in regard to the design and conduct of research and public consultation processes; co-convened research conferences; and opportunities for staff and student exchanges between ANU and the VLC for the purposes of education, research, and presentation of work at seminars. The next research training program for VLC staff is expected to be held in November 2016.

In 2015/16 SSGM also developed a proposal for support from Pacific Women for a two-year training program intended to enhance the existing research skills, and develop new research skills, of organisations and practitioners with a specific focus on researching approaches to address gender inequality in PNG. Specifically, the aims of the proposed program are:

- to enhance and develop the gender research capacity of organisations funded by Pacific Women on issues relevant to gender equality and women’s empowerment in PNG.
- to enhance and develop the analytical and communications skills of Papua New Guinean researchers for independent research with emphasis on gender research capacity.
- to support research that generates robust evidence and learning required by Pacific Women cascading monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- to generate an evidence base that contributes to better informed policy and programming regarding addressing gender inequality in PNG.

The proposed training program is to be delivered by SSGM, in partnership with the UoG’s CSCM and the PNG Institute for Medical Research. Pending endorsement of the proposal, we anticipate the program to commence later in 2016.
Support to UPNG

In 2015/16 SSGM continued to support Alan Robson to work within the UPNG Political Science Department of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS). Alan lectured in SHSS from 1990 to 1997, and returned under the DFAT-funded Group of Eight (Go8) project between 2010 and 2013. He re-joined SHSS at the beginning of 2015 in response to a request from the Dean of the School Betty Lovai, specifically for Alan to return to provide academic leadership for junior scholars and other academic activities within the Political Science Department.

Throughout the year Alan contributed extensively to the undergraduate teaching program within the department, supported departmental administration, including staff recruitment, and was available to resource SHSS courses in other areas requiring support. In 2016 this included mounting the large Pacific History course at short notice. The closure of UPNG has disrupted the 2016 teaching program and Alan has supported the Dean in dealing with the administrative and academic issues arising from this disruption. Since the closure he has reorganised department activities, which has involved replacing obsolete courses with more relevant ones, and resourcing new and existing courses. Alan has also supported departmental staff as they work to upgrade courses for which they are responsible. He has assumed responsibility for externalising the Introduction to Government and Politics Course for Open College.

During his Go8 appointment in the Political Science Department, Alan revived the moribund Politics Honours program. This has resulted in the development of several promising junior PNG scholars who are now returning to the department from further post-graduate studies overseas. Alan is helping them to reintegrate in the department. He is also providing academic mentorship to two honours candidates who intend to submit when UPNG resumes teaching next year.

Alan is supporting other staff development activities by facilitating options for further training for staff within the department, and is also supporting UPNG's main social science and humanities journal through his membership of the editorial board.

In 2016/17 Alan will continue to support these range of activities and to support Political Science Department activities relating to the 2017 PNG elections.

Supporting Undergraduate Student Mobility

Throughout 2015/16 SSGM supported opportunities for undergraduate student mobility in the region. Simon Fenske and Ben Clarke, two students completing ANU's Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) - Asia and the Pacific – participated as researchers in the Samoa election observation. Simon's observations of the Samoan election formed the basis of a major research project involving comparison of electoral politics in the most recent national elections in Vanuatu and Samoa. His work will be published as a SSGM Discussion Paper in 2016/17. Ben described the experience of seeing how political processes are adapted to particular traditions, and gaining an understanding of traditional systems of governance, as a valuable opportunity.

SSGM submitted two project applications for the Australian Government's 2017 New Colombo Plan (NCP) Mobility Program, which were included in ANU's institutional submission to DFAT. The NCP Mobility Program provides funding opportunities for Australian universities and consortia to provide grants to Australian undergraduate students to participate in semester based or short term study, internships, mentorships, practicums and research in 38 host locations across the Indo-Pacific region.

The first SSGM NCP Mobility Program proposal is for a project to be undertaken in partnership with UPNG. It would provide later year undergraduate students with direct experience of PNG's changing political, social and economic context. The second proposal is for a project to be undertaken in partnership with USP and PIFS. It would provide later year undergraduate students with an opportunity to learn about key sustainable development issues facing the region. The outcomes of NCP Mobility Program project applications will be announced in August 2016.
SSGM's Pacific Research Fellowships are offered through a competitive process to academic researchers from Melanesia and the wider Pacific to conduct a program of research and writing at ANU for a period of 12-18 months. The Fellowships are designed to provide established academics with time and space to conduct research and to write away from busy teaching and administrative schedules at their home institution. As well as being expected to publish their research in academic forums and SSGM publication series, Pacific Research Fellows are required to present their research to academic and policy audiences in Canberra through seminars, conference presentations and briefings.

Avinash Kumar joined SSGM in December 2015 as a Pacific Research Fellow. Avinash graduated with a PhD in Political Science and International Relations from ANU’s Crawford School of Economics and Government in 2012. His PhD thesis titled The Resilience of the Legislature in Fiji focussed on the three actors—civil society organisations, political parties and the international community—that have contributed to the ‘resilience’ of the Fiji’s Parliament. His research interests lay broadly around the theme of democratisation, which includes legislative strengthening, civil society activism, political parties, elections, electoral management bodies and international democracy promotion.

Avinash has been a practitioner for most part of his working life. After teaching secondary school for three years, he worked as a Research Officer at the Office of the Leader of the Opposition and later as a Principal Research Officer at the Parliament of Fiji. He has also worked briefly as a Research Associate and as a lecturer at USP. Prior to joining SSGM, Avinash worked as the Director Strategic Development and Capacity Building at the Fijian Elections Office.

In 2015/16 Avinash continued his research on issues relating to the current Fiji Parliament and other parliaments in the Pacific. He produced an In Brief and presented a SSGM seminar on the topic. He has also commenced a monograph The Institution of Parliament and Democracy in Fiji, which is largely based on his PhD thesis. In 2016/17 he will further his research on the current Fiji Parliament, with fieldwork planned for July 2016. He will also convene a session of State of the Pacific 2016 on Media Freedom, Access to Information, and Digital Activism in the Pacific.

SSGM’s Pacific Visitors program provides support for Pacific researchers and prominent Pacific islanders to conduct research and writing at ANU, and to engage with, and contribute to, SSGM’s research. SSGM’s Pacific Visitors generally carry out a discrete piece of research and writing with guidance from an SSGM scholar. Pacific Visitors also contribute to research and thinking on the region by presenting in SSGM’s seminar series and by participating in a range of discussions with SSGM scholars and other stakeholders. In 2015/16 SSGM hosted three Pacific Visitors.

Francis Ainuu and Ah Kau Palale
January - February 2016

Francis Ainuu and Ah Kau Palale, both research officers from the Samoan Office of the Electoral Commissioner (SOEC), were hosted by SSGM for three weeks in January-February 2016. During their time at SSGM Francis and Ah Kau worked with Roannie Ng Shiu and Nicole Haley to prepare the election observation tool used for observation of the 2016 Samoan election carried out by SSGM in partnership with the SOEC and NUS. Their knowledge of the Samoan electoral legislation and regulations was key to ensuring that the instrument was appropriate for the 2016 election. They were also able to provide translations for the citizen surveys and to ensure that language used throughout the instrument was consistent with the relevant electoral and political terminology. They also participated in the 2016 PRC.

In late February 2016, Ah Kau and Francis joined SSGM scholars in the training of election observers. They also led teams of researchers deployed to Samoan constituencies throughout the observation period. During the preparation of the observation report, Francis provided important statistical information from the election to enable comparisons. He also provided insights from the SOEC in terms of their perspectives on the planning and administration of the election.
Hon Rick Hou MP
April 2016

A Member of the Solomon Islands National Parliament, Rick Hou was hosted by SSGM and CDI during the first week of April 2016. Rick Hou was elected to Parliament for Small Malaita Constituency on 4 August 2010 and re-elected on 19 November 2014, and is currently the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament. Previously, he served as Governor of the Central Bank of Solomon Islands for over 15 years during the 1990s and the first half of last decade. In 2003, Islands Business magazine named him “Man of the Year” for the Pacific region. Prior to his election to Parliament he held a senior position in the World Bank.

The centrepiece of Rick’s visit was a lively and informative seminar on the topic ‘A Day in the Life of an MP in Solomon Islands’ in which he gave a unique insight into the day-to-day pressures and challenges of representing a rural constituency. The seminar provided valuable insights into Constituency Development Funds, the operation of which remains poorly understood despite its importance in the political economy of contemporary Solomon Islands. Rick expanded his seminar presentation into a Discussion Paper which will be published by SSGM in July 2016. During his visit Rick also led a roundtable discussion for SSGM scholars and had separate conversations with DFAT.

Gregoire Nimbtik
April 2016

Gregoire Nimbtik, who recently completed his PhD studies at RMIT University, was hosted by SSGM in April 2016. Gregoire began his career in Vanuatu’s public service as Deputy Director of the Vanuatu Comprehensive Reform Program and in 2004 was appointed as the Director of the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination at the Ministry of the Prime Minister. He holds a Masters of Development Administration from ANU and a Bachelor of Arts from USP. In 2012 he was awarded an Australian Leadership Award to undertake doctoral research at RMIT University. His doctoral thesis examined corruption and governance in Vanuatu.

During his month at SSGM Gregoire worked on a number of publications, including a Discussion Paper and an In Brief, which will be available later in 2016. He also presented a SSGM Seminar on his findings from a study of corruption in the context of Vanuatu government and society and had separate conversations with DFAT.

Gordon Darcy Lilo
May - June 2016

Gordon Darcy Lilo, who was Prime Minister of Solomon Islands from 2011 to 2014, was hosted by SSGM for a four week period in May and June 2016. Prior to his election as Prime Minister, he enjoyed a distinguished career as a Minister, a Member of Parliament and earlier, as a senior public servant. He is an alumnus of ANU, having undertaken postgraduate studies at the Crawford School from 1999-2001.

During his visit Gordon led a number of seminars with SSGM staff and took part in two formal structured conversations: the first of these was with the Coral Bell School’s Greg Fry on Solomon Islands’ foreign relations and Pacific regional diplomacy, and the second was with SSGM’s James Batley on the topic of political culture; RAMSI and its legacy; elections; and state-building in Solomon Islands. Both conversations provided participants with unrivalled direct insights into the views of one of Solomon Islands’ most senior figures and into decision-making processes at the highest level. A number of staff and higher degree students took advantage of Gordon’s presence on campus to interview him one-on-one as part of their current research; Gordon also held a separate meeting with DFAT.
In addition to training and nurturing the current and next generation of researchers from the region, SSGM staff are committed to ensuring that Pacific Studies remains front and centre as a study option for Pacific researchers in Australia. In February 2016 SSGM’s Roannie Ng Shiu commenced as convenor of Pacific studies within ANU’s College of Asia and the Pacific. Since then, we have introduced, or begun teaching, a number of new undergraduate and post-graduate courses in 2016. Our teaching programs include:

### Undergraduate

**ASIA2093 Natural Resource Conflicts in Asia and the Pacific**

Course Convenors: Matthew Allen and Siobhan McDonnell

According to the United Nations, at least 40 per cent of internal conflicts globally are related to natural resources. Rather than contributing to peace and prosperity, natural resource wealth often increases the likelihood that a country will experience internal armed conflict. How and why is this the case? What sort of policy responses and interventions are available? How might natural resources contribute to peace rather than to conflict? This course is structured around a series of case studies drawn from Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. A political ecology framework is applied to the analysis of how different resource complexes—including mining, oil and gas, forestry, and oil palm—can cause violent conflict. The course has very strong research-led approach to teaching and learning. In addition to core expertise housed in the SSGM it draws upon expertise in other parts of the Coral Bell School and in the Crawford School.

**PASI2003 Environment, Conflict and Development in the Western Pacific**

Course Convenors: Meg Keen and Siobhan McDonnell

This course examines the contemporary relationships between environment, development and conflict in the cultural area known as ‘Melanesia’, with a particular focus on the independent nations of PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Using the disciplinary lenses of geography, anthropology and, to a lesser extent, political science, the course leads students to a much greater understanding of some of the pressing issues impacting on our near neighbours. Teaching and learning in this course are partly organized around three case studies in which groups of students take the lead in directing the inquiry. The broad topics of the case studies are land and development, conflict, and Australia’s engagements with Melanesia.

**PASI3012 Readings in Indigenous Societies**

Course Convenor: Roannie Ng Shiu

This is an individual course of readings on an indigenous studies topic identified by the student in consultation with the convener and nominated supervisor. This may include indigenous cultures, issues and modes of knowledge production from the Pacific Islands, Asia, Australia, the United States, New Zealand, Canada or beyond the region. Weekly meetings to discuss material covered are on a one-to-one basis with an emphasis on critical analysis and writing. The course has particular utility for students preparing for Honours or other postgraduate study.
ASIA2087
Peace Building in the Pacific and Asia
Course Convenors: Anthony Regan and Susan Dixon
This course presents students with an in-depth understanding of the theory and practice of conflict management and resolution. Through detailed analysis of case studies of both successful and failed peace processes in the Pacific and Asia, students become acquainted with the major practical and conceptual challenges to achieving sustainable peace in intrastate conflicts. The course draws on cases such as Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Aceh, East Timor and Mindanao. Drawing on insights from a range of disciplines and from the experiences of practitioners, students learn about the challenges presented by various approaches to resolving entrenched and protracted conflicts. This course is part of the new undergraduate program in peace, conflict and war.

STST2003
Security in the South Pacific: is it Australia’s ‘Arc of Instability’?
Course Convenors: Sinclair Dinnen and Stewart Firth
The phrase ‘arc of instability’ is widely used by Australian commentators to describe the chain of island countries surrounding Australia’s north-eastern shores. While this framing has been hotly contested, the Australian government has consistently viewed its near neighbourhood as the region through which a security threat to Australia could most easily be posed. Successive governments have engaged in extensive efforts to support stability and security in this region. In this course students critically analyse the current and future security challenges facing this arc, as well as the efforts Australia is taking to secure the region.

PASI1011
Navigating Pacific Studies
Course Convenors: Roannie Ng Shiu and Rochelle Bailey
Navigating Pacific Studies is an online course providing an opportunity for students to understand how the Pacific and its peoples have been conceptualised and represented. The course is structured around three learning modules—past, present and future. The first explores the voyages that brought the original inhabitants to the region and examines the stories people told about these journeys. This module examines the impact that colonialism had on the Pacific and its peoples. The second explores the more recent voyages that Pacific people have taken to places like Australia, New Zealand and the United States and examines how people move within these new boundaries and how Pacific cultures and identities have evolved over time and place. The third draws together these two modules to examine how the past and the present can help us imagine and prepare for the future.

POLS2055
Pacific Politics
Course Convenors: Stewart Firth and Kerryn Baker
The Pacific has long been a stage on which the ambitions of other countries, whether Britain, France, Japan, the United States and now China, have been played out. The impacts of this legacy—colonialism, decolonisation and secessionism—continue to reverberate throughout the region and affect the way that politics unfolds. Academic interpretations of contemporary Pacific politics are as varied as its countries are diverse. Some commentators see perpetual crisis and forecast instability and unrest. They point to coups, electoral malpractice and corruption and seek remedies via state-building and other forms of institutional engineering. In contrast, others see persistence and resilience. They highlight the enviable record of democratic elections (around 200 since independence) and the vibrancy of local political activism. In either case, when you add chiefs and other forms of “traditional” politics, and a backdrop of transferred institutions and globalization, the Pacific provides endlessly interesting case studies for timeless questions about power and its practical uses.

This is the only course dedicated to Pacific politics in Australia. Throughout the course, students have access to some of the ANU’s leading experts on politics in the region and the most recent research, both from within SSGM and other parts of the College of Asia and the Pacific.
ANTH8032 Conflict and Development in the Pacific & ANTH8043 Law, Order and Conflict in the Pacific

Course Convenors: Sinclair Dinnen and Nicole Haley

Utilising an eclectic range of theoretical approaches drawn from the disciplines of anthropology, criminology, political science and conflict studies, Conflict and Development in the Pacific and Law, Order and Conflict in the Pacific aim to equip students with tools to develop their analytical skills and their insight into social order and development in the region. Using case studies from PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste, the course explores a range of critical contemporary issues including: competing and changing notions of social order; the role of, and relation between, state and non-state processes of social control; patterns of conflict and conflict stresses; internal and external responses to problems of law and order in the Asia Pacific, and the dynamics of peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction throughout the region.

ANTH8106 Gender, Violence and Development

Course Convenors: Jenny Munro and Richard Eves

This new course, designed by Jenny Munro and Richard Eves, examines issues of gender and violence in the context of development in Melanesia and the Pacific. The course examines questions of pressing concern in the region, such as poverty and economic empowerment, political participation and human rights, sorcery and religious beliefs, rapid cultural change, urban migration, and health challenges, and asks about the relationship of violence and gender to these issues.

The course draws on the extensive academic and applied expertise of researchers in SSGM. It is intended for postgraduate students as well as practitioners interested in gender, development and violence in the region and beyond.

INTR8043 The Post-Colonial Pacific and Global Change

Course Convenors: Susan Dixon and George Carter

This course explores the experience of the post-colonial states and societies of the Pacific with global political, strategic, cultural and economic processes. It examines the impact of such processes on the fragmentation and integration of political community, on development and poverty, cultural identity, conflict and governance, human security and sovereignty. It is particularly concerned with how global norms and ideas such as democracy, human rights, gender equity, sovereignty, statism and neo-liberal economics interact with the values and organisation of local societies. It situates the Pacific experience in a larger debate about the impact of ‘globalisation’ on developing states, and about the international system as viewed from non-western regions.

PASI6003 Environment, Conflict and Development in the Western Pacific

Course Convenors: Meg Keen and Siobhan McDonnell

This course examines the contemporary relationships between environment, development and conflict in the cultural area known as ‘Melanesia’, with a particular focus on the independent nations of PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Using the disciplinary lenses of geography, anthropology and, to a lesser extent, political science, the course leads students to a much greater understanding of some of the pressing issues impacting on our near neighbours. Teaching and learning in this course are partly organized around three case studies in which groups of students take the lead in directing the inquiry. The broad topics of the case studies are land and development, conflict, and Australia’s engagements with Melanesia.
Higher Degree Research

ANTH9102
Postgraduate Fieldwork in the Pacific

Course Convenors: Susan Dixon and Amanda Watson

This course is aimed at HDR students who wish to develop the skills to safely and successfully conduct ethical field research in the Pacific, taking account of the social, cultural, political and institutional contexts. The course aims to provide training in the practicalities of conducting research. This includes cross-cultural communication, ethical considerations, creating health and safety plans, obtaining visas, and budgeting. The course provides the skills to creatively respond to fieldwork challenges in iterative ways.

PASI9011
Introduction to Research in the Pacific - Methods and Research Design

Course Convenor: Susan Dixon

This course helps students to develop skills necessary for formulating a research project by giving students an in-depth understanding of research design and qualitative methods. The course aims to introduce the basic tools and techniques of primarily qualitative field research and to provide practical experience of basic methods such as interviewing, genealogy, field notes and structured observations. Students learn how to define a research problem, to choose the most appropriate methods, to conduct research, and to write reports on the results of such research.
SSGM’s PhD program is a vibrant community of researchers pursuing some of the most important long-term research questions relevant to Melanesia and the broader Pacific. The PhD program began in 2008 and as of mid-2016 it comprises a diverse group of 30 candidates including former senior policymakers, Pacific development practitioners, senior Australian Defence Force personnel, and graduate students that bring a range of experiences and expertise to their studies. Notably one third of our PhD scholars are from the Pacific islands region.

In 2015/16 we worked to develop our HDR training program. This involved establishing two new courses specifically for HDR students: PASI9011 Introduction to Research in the Pacific—Methods and Research Design and ANTH9102 Postgraduate Fieldwork in the Pacific. Susan Dixon led the development of the course proposals for approval. Susan convened PASI9011 Introduction to Research in the Pacific—Methods and Research Design course, which was delivered early in 2016. She is co-convening ANTH9102 Postgraduate Fieldwork in the Pacific with Amanda Watson; that course will be delivered later in 2016.

Another way in which we support our PhD scholars is through a thesis writing group led by our HDR convenor Thiago Cintra Oppermann. The group meets every fortnight to workshop thesis chapters and other pieces of writing. They also do readings on particular topics, for example agency, ethnography for non-ethnographers, post-colonialism, kinship, and Foucault on subjectivity, power and resistance.

In 2015/16 three new scholars commenced doctoral research with SSGM.

**Tobias Haque**

Tobias Haque joined SSGM in January 2016 to undertake a PhD research. His research explores the political economy of economic reform in Solomon Islands since the 2003 RAMSI intervention. The research tests whether and to what extent uneven progress with economic reform implementation in Solomon Islands can be explained through application of the emerging political settlements analytical framework. How have donor-driven attempts at orthodox market-enhancing institutional reforms shaped and been shaped by the changing distribution of political power in a fluid post-conflict and aid-dependent context? What are the implications of such interactions both for the durability of attempted institutional reforms and the achievement of broader state-building objectives?

Tobias has an academic background in economics, political economy, and sociology, and an ongoing professional interest in the process of economic reform in politically complex and fragile contexts. He worked in Solomon Islands between 2009 and 2011 as Country Economist for the World Bank, and has since worked on economic reform in a wide range of countries including in the Pacific Islands and Southern Africa. He is pursuing this research part-time, and is currently the World Bank Senior Country Economist for Afghanistan, based in Washington DC.
Mona Matepi

Mona is a recipient of the Australian Postgraduate Award and commenced her PhD with SSGM in early 2016. Her research project proposes to explore the dynamics of path-dependent capitalism and how it shapes and influences the political economy of sea-bed mining as a developing industry in the Pacific islands region. She examines the interactions between key structures and governance institutions from the global to local, in-between which the perspectives of regional institutions as enablers of the deep-sea mining project and local communities as beneficiaries will be critical to informing the project.

This comparative study to investigate the multilevel relationships that led to the decision to exploit the seabed proposes to incorporate a historical narrative and legal sociology of deep-sea minerals to determine what is driving the seabed mining agenda, how important decisions as changing the oceanscape are made, who is writing the future for Pacific Islanders, and why their leaders consistently acquiesce to a path that is contingent on past decisions; which, in the long term, have proved detrimental to the growth and wellbeing of the region.

Mary Walta

Mary Walta joined the SSGM in February 2016 to undertake a PhD research project, ‘situating modern lives in Port Moresby’s urban settlements: settler perspectives on development and leveraging access to urban services’. Mary’s research to examine the resilience and entrepreneurship of increasingly hybrid identities and cultures forging lives distanced from the traditional ties to rural villages and sustaining lifestyles peripheral to legal, political and urban service provision in PNG’s capital city. Using the frames of power, rights to the city and co-production, her research aims to investigate the current political economy framework and leverage potential that exists for settlers to gain access to employment and urban services.

Mary has a cross-disciplinary academic background with ongoing interests in postcolonial livelihood strategies in urbanisation and development contexts. Her interest in the Pacific region stems from having studied and worked in PNG for an extended period, undertaking research investigating: heavy metal uptake by aquatic vegetables from the urban creeks in Port Moresby; the ecology of coastal marine organisms at Motupore Island; and developing a Caritas funded HIV/AIDS awareness-training program in Bougainville, which toured the province’s schools and training centres in an effort to educate the youth as to the gravity of the disease. Most recently, she has worked as a copyeditor of academic research writing both in a freelance capacity and employed in the Resource Management in the Asia Pacific program at ANU.
### PhD Students

**Stephen Blair**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Civil-military relations in PNG; Australia’s relationship with the Pacific, particularly with PNG.  
**Country Experience**: PNG.  
**Disciplinary Background**: International relations.  
**Email**: stephen.blair@anu.edu.au

**George Carter**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Pacific international relations; diplomacy; regionalism; sub-regionalism politics; leadership; climate change politics; development aid, geo-politics.  
**Country Experience**: Pacific regionalism; sub-regionalism (Melanesia and Polynesia); Samoa; American Samoa; Tonga; Solomon Islands; PNG; New Zealand; China; United States of America.  
**Disciplinary Background**: International relations; political science; diplomatic studies; Pacific studies.  
**Email**: george.carter@anu.edu.au

**Stephen Close**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Aid and development; the school-to-work transition; the interaction of education and training supply and labour markets in Pacific Island Countries; education sector expenditure, systems development and support for service delivery; non-formal and second-chance education and employment programs.  
**Country Experience**: Niue; Timor-Leste; Solomon Islands.  
**Disciplinary Background**: International relations; public policy.  
**Email**: stephen.close@anu.edu.au

**Pete Connolly**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Chinese strategic interests in Melanesia; Chinese strategy; Chinese non-combatant evacuation operations; Military to military engagement with PLA; Trilateral Aid cooperation programs involving China; Diplomatic engagement with China; Chinese access and influence in PNG, Fiji and Timor Leste.  
**Country Experience**: China; PNG; Fiji; Timor-Leste.  
**Disciplinary Background**: International relations; strategic studies.  
**Email**: peteconnolly@rocketmail.com

**Claire Cronin**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Legal anthropology; transitional justice; the representation of suffering and atrocity; anthropology of human rights; restorative justice; narrative research and construction of historical narrative; truth commissions; colonialism in the Pacific and Solomon Islands in particular; gender; political economy.  
**Country Experience**: Solomon Islands; Kiribati; Fiji; Vanuatu; India; Bosnia-Herzegovina.  
**Disciplinary Background**: human rights; genocide studies; transitional justice; English and American literature; theology.  
**Email**: claire.cronin@anu.edu.au

**Meabh Cryan**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Politics; politics of land; land and property rights.  
**Country Experience**: Timor-Leste.  
**Disciplinary Background**: Anthropology; development studies.  
**Email**: meabh.cryan@anu.edu.au

**Daniel Evans**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Solomon Islands; urbanisation; contemporary urban youth culture; youth policy and programming; urban conflict.  
**Country Experience**: Vanuatu; PNG (New Guinea Islands); Solomon Islands.  
**Disciplinary Background**: Law; legal sociology; international development.  
**Email**: daniel.evans@anu.edu.au

**George Gavet**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Melanesian ethnography; Pacific youth development; Pacific sports and education.  
**Country Experience**: New Zealand; Samoa; Tonga.  
**Disciplinary Background**: Sociology of sports; education and youth development.  
**Email**: george.gavet@anu.edu.au

**Shaun Gessler**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Human rights; gender; sex and sexuality; gendered citizenship; civil and political rights.  
**Country Experience**: Bougainville.  
**Disciplinary Background**: Anthropology.  
**Email**: shaun.gessler@anu.edu.au

**Tobias Haque**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Solomon Islands; political economy; institutional reform; economic reform; political settlements.  
**Country Experience**: Solomon Islands; Pacific Islands; Southern Africa; Afghanistan.  
**Disciplinary Background**: Economics; political economy, and sociology.  
**Email**: tobihasque@anu.edu.au

**Sue Ingram**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Post-conflict statebuilding; constitutional design; parliaments; international/regional interventions in Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands and Bougainville.  
**Country Experience**: Timor-Leste; Solomon Islands; PNG (Bougainville); Indonesia; Sierra Leone; Liberia.  
**Disciplinary Background**: Anthropology; political science.  
**Email**: sue.ingram@anu.edu.au

**Christina Kenny**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Human rights; gender; sex and sexuality; gendered citizenship; civil and political rights.  
**Country Experience**: Kenya.  
**Disciplinary Background**: Law; history; anthropology.  
**Email**: christina.kenny@anu.edu.au

**Ellen Kulumbu**, PhD Candidate  
**Research Interests**: Governance and service delivery; conflict and development; capacity building and institutional strengthening; core issues in development (including gender, food security, population); monitoring and evaluation.  
**Country Experience**: PNG.  
**Disciplinary Background**: Political economy; public policy and administration.  
**Email**: ellen.kulumbu@anu.edu.au
Stephanie Lusby, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Gender (focusing on changing masculinities); public health communication; primary prevention of gendered violence; livelihoods, labour and urbanisation; land use; citizenship and social contracts; sexual health, and reproductive rights.
Country Experience: PNG and Solomon Islands.
Disciplinary Background: Applied anthropology.
Email: stephanie.lusby@anu.edu.au

Armando Maia, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Timor-Leste local history; history of the resistance and independence; Timorese Culture.
Country Experience: Timor-Leste.
Disciplinary Background: History.
Email: armando.maia@anu.edu.au

Mona Matepi, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Political economy; sea-bed mining; resources.
Country Experience: Pacific.
Disciplinary Background: Social sciences.
Email: mona.matepi@anu.edu.au

Daniel McAvoy, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: State building, policing and security sector reform in Solomon Islands; Pacific colonial and post-colonial history and politics; international interventions in fragile states and humanitarian emergencies; humanitarian research including assessing the impact and effectiveness of humanitarian intervention.
Country Experience: Solomon Islands; India; Indonesia; Uganda; Macedonia and Kosovo; Iraq.
Disciplinary Background: Geography; anthropology.
Email: daniel.mcavoy@anu.edu.au

Theresa Meki, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: PNG politics; women's participation in Melanesia's electoral politics.
Country Experience: PNG.
Disciplinary Background: Political science.
Email: theresa.meki@anu.edu.au

Philip Mitna, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: PNG foreign policy.
Country Experience: PNG.
Disciplinary Background: International relations.
Email: philip.mitna@anu.edu.au

David Oakeshott, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Nation-building/making; peace-building; transitional justice; restorative justice; education; indigenous education; post-conflict history curricula reform; anthropology; comparative politics.
Country Experience: Solomon Islands.
Disciplinary Background: Asia-Pacific studies.
Email: david.oakeshott@anu.edu.au

Suzanne O'Neill, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Country ownership and aid effectiveness in the health sector in the Pacific.
Country Experience: Pacific Islands.
Disciplinary Background: Politics; Development; Health education and promotion.
Email: suzanne.oneill@anu.edu.au

Lincy Pendeverana, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Land, resource ownership, livelihoods, environment and conflict in Solomon Islands.
Country Experience: Solomon Islands.
Email: lincy.pende@anu.edu.au

Scott Robertson, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Citizenship; identity politics in former colonies; decolonisation; non-self-governing territories; French nationalism; New Caledonia.
Country Experience: New Caledonia.
Disciplinary Background: Politics.
Email: scott.robertson@anu.edu.au

Michelle Nayahamui Rooney, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Space, kinship and value in urban Melanesia; urban poverty and political economy of livelihoods in urban informal settlements; migration; gender, children and violence; kinship and exchange relations; land; international development.
Country Experience: PNG.
Disciplinary Background: Economics.
Email: michelle.rooney@anu.edu.au

Almah Tararia, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Women's leadership; elections and electoral politics; gender and governance.
Country Experience: PNG.
Disciplinary Background: Environmental law; Human Rights.
Email: almah.tararia@anu.edu.au

Asha Titus, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Digital media; Social Network Analysis; economic sociology; sociology of development; ICTs and collective action; the role of ICT in marketisation.
Country Experience: PNG.
Disciplinary Background: Sociology.
Email: asha.titus@anu.edu.au

Anita Togolo, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Bougainville; artisanal mining; gender; matrilineal descent; community development.
Country Experience: PNG.
Disciplinary Background: Anthropology.
Email: anita.togolo@anu.edu.au

Mary Walta, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Postcolonial livelihood strategies in urbanisation and development contexts development.
Country Experience: PNG and Pacific.
Disciplinary Background: Geography; Development Studies.
Email: mary.walta@anu.edu.au

Colin Wiltshire, Research Fellow
Research Interests: Political economy of service delivery; public financial management and expenditure tracking; governance and decentralisation policy; health systems analysis.
Country Experience: PNG; Timor-Leste; China.
Disciplinary Background: Policy; Development.
Email: colin.wiltshire@anu.edu.au

Michelle Zhang, PhD Candidate
Research Interests: Foreign aid; trilateral aid cooperation; Chinese trilateral aid cooperation in Asia-Pacific.
Country Experience: Timor-Leste, PNG, Cambodia, Tonga.
Disciplinary Background: Politics, international relations.
Email: denghua.zhang@anu.edu.au
SSGM continues to conduct a range of outreach activities, and to maintain and develop collaborative links with institutions across the region and internationally. These activities support SSGM’s efforts to communicate its research effectively; to conduct credible, collaborative and contemporary research in the region; and to provide forums for constructive discussion on issues that are of significance to the region.

In 2015/16 we continued to disseminate the findings of our research to a range of audiences, including government policymakers in Australia and the region, development partners, civil society and academic colleagues. In total we conducted 103 briefings with DFAT staff and 218 briefings with a range of other organisations. These included:


In 2015/16 we also continued to contribute to social commentary on issues relevant to the Pacific. We authored 22 published blogs and 10 online news articles, conducted a number of interviews broadcast on radio and TV, and had our work featured in a number of media releases issued by outlets in the region.

In 2015/16 we fostered a number of ongoing partnerships in organisations in the Pacific region. One of SSGM’s key partnerships, which is expected to deepen in 2016/17, is that with the Australian NRL.
In 2015, 42 per cent of all NRL athletes were of Pacific heritage. This level of representation is significant given that less than one per cent of the Australian population is of Pacific heritage. In response to these demographic trends, in 2012 SSGM and the NRL Welfare and Education department established a partnership based on a shared goal of improving the social outcomes of Pacific communities both in Australia and in the region. The partnership leverages the strengths of SSGM’s knowledge of the region and the NRL’s networks and development capacity to empower Pacific athletes and communities.

Since its establishment, the partnership has primarily focused on delivery of leadership training programs aimed at developing the leadership capabilities and capacities of Pacific athletes, and educational and cultural empowerment through teaching Pacific studies and delivering cultural reconnection programs. The first cohort of athletes who participated in training programs delivered under the SSGM-NRL partnership are now working to support social development for Pacific communities in Australia and the region via a range of activities.

In August 2015 in collaboration with SPC, SSGM delivered a three day leadership and development training program for NRL Pasifika Ambassadors, which was a component of the Pacific Outreach Strategy developed by DFAT and the NRL. In March 2016 SSGM and SPG conducted a follow-up workshop for the Pasifika Ambassadors, which focussed on assessing the impact of their involvement in, and leadership of, activities delivered under the Pacific Outreach Strategy.

SSGM also collaborated with NRL athletes, as well as with national and international educational institutions including Western Sydney University, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Hawai‘i, to design and deliver a number of educational outreach activities including the 2015 Pacific Youth Summit. The Summit coincided with the Rugby League Pacific Test and focused on leadership and healthy living. One hundred Year 11 and 12 students from the Sydney area participated in the Youth Summit and were tasked with designing their own healthy living programs with Pacific youth and families in their communities. Proposals for a number of healthy living programs have stemmed from the Summit and are now being presented to the NSW Government for funding.

Due to the success of the SSGM-SPC leadership program, there is now better Pacific engagement with the Pacific Outreach Strategy and with other NRL departments. It is also anticipated that as more Pacific athletes who have been engaged with Pacific empowerment and leadership activities retire into positions within the NRL, capacity to design development programs of benefit to Pacific athletes and communities will increase.

In 2016/17 Roannie Ng Shiu will be working in partnership with Joanna Lester, journalist and a former Media and Communication Officer for the NRL, on a research project documenting the lives of women involved in rugby league in PNG. This project aims to explore how women have been empowered by participating in rugby league and how this impacts on new forms of femininity, women’s agency and perceptions of women.
In 2015/16 SSGM continued to support Pasifika Australia. Pasifika Australia is an ANU access and equity outreach program. It implements a number of outreach and internal engagement initiatives that work to improve rates of young Pasifika people entering into higher education and provide pastoral care assistance to those already at ANU to ensure that students of Pacific heritage successfully complete their studies. To foster a strong sense of community, Pasifika Australia has established a dedicated study and lounge space for students of Pacific heritage and students who are interested in Pacific studies. For more information, please go to: http://pasifika.anu.edu.au/. Highlights of Pasifika Australia’s activities in 2015/16 are outlined below.

Student Engagement
Pasifika Australia worked with local NGO, Niu Movement, and St Edmund’s College to foster stronger engagement between staff and Pacific students at the College. It has done this by teaching Pacific students about cultural and educational empowerment so that they are better equipped to engage in the classroom, and by providing staff with professional development training on how to effectively engage with Pacific students.

Film Festival Summer Series
Pasifika Australia hosted the inaugural Pasifika Film Festival Summer Series in February 2016. This involved showcasing films from across the region which were directed and/or produced by Pacific islanders. Films included a film from the Marshall Islands on climate change and the feature length documentary from PNG, Tep Tok, which explores women’s empowerment in PNG through tattooing. The festival included a live tattoo demonstration by Tep Tok’s Director, Julia Mageau Gray, as well as stalls from Pacific communities in Canberra.

These activities were supplemented by Pasifika Australia’s participation in the NRL Pacific Youth Summit in Sydney and the Nesia Festival, which is an annual event held on campus to celebrate and promote awareness of the diversity of Pacific cultures.

Student Groups
Pasifika Australia also supported the three major Pacific-based student groups at ANU: Pasifika Australia Student Society, Micronesia and Australia Friends Association (MAFA) and the Canberra PNG Student Society. In 2015 Pasifika Australia provided academic support for MAFA’s PACE-Net Plus Seed funding grant research proposal on Kuchua Community Project: Indigenous Youth Responses to Water and Waste Management in Kuchua, Chuuk. MAFA’s application was successful and the project was carried out between November 2015 and June 2016.
Nicole Haley
Convenor

Research Interests: Melanesian ethnography; political economy; land politics; elections and electoral politics in PNG; social identity; conflict and armed violence; gender; and HIV/AIDS.
Country Experience: PNG; Solomon Islands.
Disciplinary Background: Anthropology.
Email: nicole.haley@anu.edu.au

James Batley
Distinguished Policy Fellow, Deputy Convenor and Head of the SSGM Policy Hub

Research Interests: Government and politics of the Pacific; governance; development; peace and conflict; regional and international relations.
Country Experience: the Pacific Islands; Fiji; PNG; Solomon Islands; Timor-Leste and Vanuatu.
Disciplinary Background: International Relations.
Email: james.batley@anu.edu.au
POLITICS, ELECTIONS, LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE RESEARCH CLUSTER

Julien Barbara
Senior Policy Fellow and Head of the Politics, Elections, Leadership and Governance Research Cluster

Research Interests: Post-conflict state-building; service delivery in fragile contexts; elections and development; development relationships in the Pacific.
Country Experience: Solomon Islands; Timor-Leste.
Disciplinary Background: Political Economy.
Email: julien.barbara@anu.edu.au

Kerryn Baker
Research Fellow

Research Interests: Political representation; gender, elections and electoral politics; electoral quotas.
Country Experience: PNG (Bougainville); Samoa.
Disciplinary Background: Political Science.
Email: kerryn.baker@anu.edu.au

Stewart Firth
Fellow

Research Interests: Politics of Fiji; Australian policy towards the Pacific Islands; international relations of the Pacific Islands; state building and intervention.
Country Experience: Fiji; PNG; Cook Islands.
Disciplinary Background: Pacific history; political science.
Email: stewart.firth@anu.edu.au

Avinash Kumar
Pacific Research Fellow

Research Interests: Parliament and Parliamentary Strengthening; Elections and Elections Management Bodies; Political Parties; Civil Society Organizations and Democratization; International Democracy Promotion.
Country Experience: Fiji.
Disciplinary Background: Political Science.
Email: avinash.kumar@anu.edu.au
Thiago Cintra Oppermann

Research Fellow

Research Interests: Melanesian anthropology; Bougainville; political anthropology; ethnography of the state; Melanesian social movements; Austronesian social organization; kinship and land tenure systems in Melanesia; anthropology of development; political economy.

Country Experience: PNG (Bougainville).

Disciplinary Background: Anthropology.

Email: thiago.oppermann@anu.edu.au

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Alan Robson

Fellow

Research Interests: The challenges of public administration in developing contexts; patrimonial politics; the politics of discourse construction in post-industrial societies; Indigenous responses to regime change in Southeast Asia.

Country Experience: PNG, Fiji; Myanmar, Thailand.

Disciplinary Background: Politics; International Relations.

Email: alan.robson@anu.edu.au

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Colin Wiltshire

Research Fellow

Research Interests: Political economy of service delivery; public financial management and expenditure tracking; governance and decentralisation policy; health systems analysis.

Country Experience: PNG; Timor-Leste; China.

Disciplinary Background: Public policy; economic geography.

Email: colin.wiltshire@anu.edu.au

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Kerry Zubrinich

Research Fellow

Research Interests: Social organisations found in the Pacific and their internal and external ramifications for the indigenous populations; cosmologies as evident in everyday life and ritual; gender relations in the Pacific region (Australia included); policing of indigenous Australians.

Country Experience: PNG.

Disciplinary Background: Anthropology.

Email: kerry.zubrinich@anu.edu.au
RESOURCES, CONFLICT AND JUSTICE RESEARCH CLUSTER

Meg Keen
Senior Policy Fellow and Head of the Resources, Conflict and Justice Research Cluster

Research Interests: Development and international relations of the Pacific Islands; natural resource management; urbanisation; state building and economic development; regionalism.
Country Experience: PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji.
Disciplinary Background: Human Geography; Economics.
Email: meg.keen@anu.edu.au

Matthew Allen
Fellow

Research Interests: Political ecology and political economy of extractive resource industries and resource conflict in the Western Pacific; agrarian change and rural development; local-level governance; peace and conflict; and state-society relations and critical perspectives on state formation.
Country Experience: Solomon Islands; PNG.
Disciplinary Background: Human geography.
Email: matthew.allen@anu.edu.au

Jessica Carpenter
Research/Project Officer

Research Interests: Fiji politics and development, Urban Politics, Political Economy, International Relations.
Country Experience: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu.
Disciplinary Background: International Relations, Political Science.
Email: jessica.carpenter@anu.edu.au

Sinclair Dinnen
Senior Fellow

Research Interests: Post-colonial state formation; plural policing; regulatory pluralism; law & justice reform; political ordering; development discourse and practice; crime; conflict; peacebuilding; nationbuilding.
Country Experience: PNG; Solomon Islands.
Disciplinary Background: Law.
Email: sinclair.dinnen@anu.edu.au
Miranda Forsyth
Fellow
Research Interests: Law (criminal justice and intellectual property); non-state justice systems; legal pluralism; law and development; Pacific island countries’ legal orders.
Country Experience: Vanuatu; PNG; Fiji; Samoa.
Disciplinary Background: Law.
Email: miranda.forsyth@anu.edu.au

Susan Dixon
Research Fellow
Research Interests: Australia’s relations with Pacific island countries, especially the Australian-led intervention in Solomon Islands; conflict and peace processes; indigenous knowledge; critical geopolitics.
Country Experience: Solomon Islands.
Disciplinary Background: Geography.
Email: susan.dixon@anu.edu.au

Anthony Regan
Fellow
Research Interests: Conflict reconciliation and peace processes in Melanesia; Law and politics in developing countries (especially PNG and Uganda); decentralisation policy in developing countries.
Country Experience: PNG (Bougainville); Fiji.
Disciplinary Background: Law.
Email: anthony.regan@anu.edu.au
Richard Eves
Senior Fellow and the Head of Gender, Health, Social Development and Migration Research Cluster
Research Interests: Melanesian ethnography (especially religion and social/cultural change); medical anthropology (especially international public health and HIV/AIDS); gender (especially masculinity); and gender-based violence; sorcery & witchcraft; women’s economic empowerment.
Country Experience: PNG.
Disciplinary Background: Anthropology.
Email: richard.eves@anu.edu.au

Rochelle Bailey
Research Fellow
Research Interests: Labour mobility; development; migration; Melanesian anthropology and politics; economic anthropology; circulation of economic and social remittances; social change; Pacific governance and politics.
Country Experience: Vanuatu.
Disciplinary Background: Anthropology; Political Science.
Email: rochelle.bailey@anu.edu.au

Priya Chattier
Research Fellow
Research Interests: Women’s economic empowerment in Fiji; measuring poverty and gender disparity with a focus on Sen’s capability approach; gender; Hindu womanhood and diaspora; gender relations in the Pacific especially masculinity in crisis.
Country Experience: Fiji.
Disciplinary Background: Sociology.
Email: priya.chattier@anu.edu.au
Jenny Munro  
Research Fellow  
Research Interests: Cultural and medical anthropology; HIV/AIDS (indigenous and cultural approaches to prevention and treatment; preventing mother-to-child transmission); education, youth and development; alcohol and violence; indigenous-state relations.  
Country Experience: PNG.  
Disciplinary Background: Anthropology.  
Email: jenny.munro@anu.edu.au

Roannie Ng Shiu  
Pacific Studies Outreach and Research Fellow  
Research Interests: Health, cultural and social geographies with a particular interest in Pacific migration and transnationalism; health and educational inequalities; inequities that Pacific communities experience in Australia and New Zealand.  
Country Experience: Samoa; New Zealand.  
Disciplinary Background: Geography.  
Email: roannie.ng@anu.edu.au
Hannah McMahon
Program Manager

**Responsible for:** Program management; research communication; outreach and external engagement, including with DFAT and regional institutions.  
**Email:** hannah.mcmahon@anu.edu.au

Peta Jones
Senior Program Administrator

**Responsible for:** Overall program administration; budget/financial management; program and activity logistics; university engagement.  
**Email:** peta.jones@anu.edu.au

Joanne Ridolfi
Senior Program Officer

**Responsible for:** Formal reporting; internal communications; monitoring and evaluation.  
**Email:** joanne.ridolfi@anu.edu.au
Louana Gaffey
Assistant Administrator

**Responsible for:** Program administration; activity administration; logistics support; event co-ordination.

**Email:** louana.gaffey@anu.edu.au

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Rodney Ng Shiu
Digital Web & Technologies Officer

**Responsible for:** Maintenance of SSGM website; marketing and communications through digital technology and social media; web publishing & digital publishing.

**Email:** rodney.ngshiu@anu.edu.au
SSGM Visiting Fellow & Adjunct/Emeritus Appointments

Bryant Allen. Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: Agricultural change in Melanesia and Southeast Asia; the sustainability of agricultural systems; the identification of poor and disadvantaged areas in PNG; food security and rural development.
Country Experience: PNG.
Disciplinary Background: Geography.
Email: bryant.ernst@anu.edu.au

Rochelle Ball. Fellow
Research Interests: Labour mobility and development; Australia’s relationship with the Pacific; regionalism; globalisation and citizenship; gender, population and development studies; food security and international trade.
Country Experience: PNG; Solomon Islands; Fiji; Romania; Tonga; Tuvalu; Nauru; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Palau; Federated States of Micronesia.
Disciplinary Background: Political science.
Email: rochelle.ball@anu.edu.au

Jack Corbett. Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: Political leadership; anti-politics and democratic disenchantment; democratization and development; biography and life writing; the politics of small island states; and interpretive research methods.
Country Experience: PNG; Solomon Islands; Fiji; Samoa; Tonga; Tuvalu; Nauru; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Palau; Federated States of Micronesia.
Disciplinary Background: Political science.
Email: jack.corbett@griffith.edu.au

Peter Elder. Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: Politics in Fiji; PNG; Solomon Islands; Samoa; Timor-Leste; West Papua; Tonga; autonomy and beyond in Bougainville.
Disciplinary Background: History.
Email: peter.elder@anu.edu.au

Tom Ernst. Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: PNG social and economic formations; kinship ideologies; local understandings of law (particularly in the south and west fringes of the Southern Highlands and Hela Provinces, PNG); the reconfiguration of mythologies near ethnic boundaries.
Country Experience: PNG; Solomon Islands; Indigenous Australia.
Disciplinary Background: Anthropology.
Email: thomas.ernst@anu.edu.au

Jon Fraenkel. Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: Politics of highly heterogeneous societies; institutional design in divided societies; state-building; Solomons is-Papua; coups and elections in Fiji; economic history of Oceania; electoral systems.
Country Experience: Solomon Islands; Fiji; Tonga; PNG; Nauru.
Disciplinary Background: Economic History and Political Science.
Email: jnn.fraenkel@vuw.ac.nz

James Fox. Emeritus Professor
Research Interests: History and anthropology of Indonesia and East Timor; rural development and resource management; social organisation and symbolic systems; linguistic anthropology; comparative Austronesian ethnology.
Country Experience: Indonesia; Timor Leste.
Disciplinary Background: Anthropology.
Email: thomas.ernst@anu.edu.au

David Hegarty. Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: Governance and political change; small state diplomacy and security; conflict and conflict-resolution strategies in the Pacific Islands.
Country Experience: PNG; Samoa.
Disciplinary Background: Politics.
Email: david.hegarty@anu.edu.au

Stephanie Lawson. Professor and Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: Postcolonial approaches to history and politics in the Pacific Islands; post colonialism in International Relations theory; indigenous nationalism in Fiji; theories of culture in politics; the politics of past and present.
Country Experience: Pacific Islands; Fiji; Tonga; Samoa.
Disciplinary Background: Politics and International Relations.
Email: stephanie.lawson@mq.edu.au

Scott MacWilliam. Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: Indigenous commerce, particularly in the southern hemisphere; smallholder agriculture; comparative politics of development; political thought and political economy.
Country Experience: Australia; Canada; USA; Uganda; Kenya; UK; PNG; Fiji.
Disciplinary Background: History; political science; public administration; development studies.
Email: scottmac69@grapevine.com.au

Ronald J May. Emeritus Fellow
Research Interests: Comparative politics, particularly ethnicity and ethnic conflict; decentralisation; parties and elections; civil-military relations.
Country Experience: PNG; Philippines (especially Muslim Mindanao).
Disciplinary Background: History.
Email: ron.may@anu.edu.au

Douglas Porter. Adjunct Professor
Research Interests: Institutional change, political economy, interventions in conflicted settings, decentralisation and justice reforms.
Country Experience: Vanuatu; Solomon Islands; Timor-Leste.
Disciplinary Background: Geography; economics; politics.
Email: douglas.j.porter@gmail.com

Amanda Watson. Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: Communication research and training; mobile telephony in PNG; new communication technology for developing nations; development-related communication solutions.
Country Experience: PNG; Federated States of Micronesia.
Disciplinary Background: Communications and International Development.
Email: ahawatson@hotmail.com

David Hegarty. Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: Governance and political change; small state diplomacy and security; conflict and conflict-resolution strategies in the Pacific Islands.
Country Experience: PNG; Samoa.
Disciplinary Background: Politics.
Email: david.hegarty@anu.edu.au

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Research Interests: Postcolonial approaches to history and politics in the Pacific Islands; post colonialism in International Relations theory; indigenous nationalism in Fiji; theories of culture in politics; the politics of past and present.
Country Experience: Pacific Islands; Fiji; Tonga; Samoa.
Disciplinary Background: Politics and International Relations.
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Email: ron.may@anu.edu.au

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Disciplinary Background: Geography; economics; politics.
Email: douglas.j.porter@gmail.com

Amanda Watson. Visiting Fellow
Research Interests: Communication research and training; mobile telephony in PNG; new communication technology for developing nations; development-related communication solutions.
Country Experience: PNG; Federated States of Micronesia.
Disciplinary Background: Communications and International Development.
Email: ahawatson@hotmail.com
SSGM acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through DFAT and ANU. DFAT funding provides core support for SSGM, CDI and the Women’s Leadership in Decision-Making Project.

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<th>INCOME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Core Income Carry Forwards</td>
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<td>CDI Carry Forwards</td>
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<td>SSGM Core Funding (DFAT)</td>
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<td>SSGM Salaries</td>
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<td>Program Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Research &amp; Outreach Activities</td>
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<td>SSGM Operating Liabilities</td>
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<td>CDI Committed Activities</td>
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<td>Women’s Leadership and Decision Making Project</td>
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| END OF YEAR OPERATING RESULT             | $545,408.83   |