



Australian
National
University

Department of
Pacific Affairs

State of the Pacific 2022

28–29 September 2022
Weston Theatre, J.G. Crawford Building
132 Lennox Crossing, ANU

Coral Bell School of Asia
Pacific Affairs

College of Asia & the
Pacific

Keynote Speakers



Mr Shadrach Himata

Chief Secretary, Autonomous Bougainville Government

Hailing from Fead Island in Bougainville, Shadrach holds a bachelor degree in mineral process engineering from the University of Technology in Lae, PNG, and post graduate qualifications in mineral economics from Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia. After graduating, he first worked for six years in the PNG mining industry and abroad, including work with Red Dome Mines, North Queensland, and Misima Mines and Ok Tedi Mines in PNG.

Shadrach joined the PNG Department of Mining 24 years ago as the principal mining coordinator. He subsequently held senior positions in the PNG Mineral Resources Authority, initially as manager of exploration. He later became deputy secretary in the PNG Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management, and later secretary of that department.

In 2017, Sharach returned home to Bougainville to work for the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), first as secretary of the Department of Minerals and Energy Resources. In 2019 he was appointed ABG deputy chief secretary policy and strategic planning. After a period acting as ABG chief secretary, early in 2022 he was appointed to that position on a substantive basis.

In the course of his work in the public service, he has served as a government-nominated director on various boards, including: Mineral Resources Development Company Ltd; Mineral Resources Ok Tedi; Alice River Trust; Lamin Trust; Mineral Resources Star Mountain; Star Mountain Plaza (Hilton); and PNG SDL Advisory Committee.

Mr Ivan Pomaleu

PNG Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister



Ivan is the secretary for the Department of Prime Minister and the National Executive Council, a position he has held since January 2021. In this role, he has oversight of whole of government policy and program delivery and co-chairs the Joint Technical Team on Bougainville. Prior to joining the Department, Ivan held various positions in the Investment Promotion Authority, including as managing director from 2001 to 2016. From 2013 to 2019 Ivan was PNG's ambassador for APEC. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Papua New Guinea, a Diploma in Economic Planning from the International Development Centre of Japan, and an MBA from Deakin University in Australia. Ivan is originally from Manus Province and now lives with his family in Port Moresby.

About State of the Pacific 2022

A Pacific Research Program flagship event, State of the Pacific (SOTP) will again in 2022 bring together leading academics, policymakers, community leaders, civil society representatives and other experts to present on, discuss and debate current issues of interest concerning the Pacific Islands region.

Publication Launches

This year at SOTP2022, we are celebrating the launches of two publications.

Pacific Attitudes Survey: Samoa

We invite you to join us to celebrate the Australian launch of the *Pacific Attitudes Survey: Samoa* at 5pm after the conclusion of the last panel on Wednesday, 28 September 2022.

About the publication

The *Pacific Attitudes Survey: Samoa* is the first large scale popular political attitudes survey conducted in the Pacific region. Comprising 181 questions set out in 26 thematic modules, it covers a broad range of topics including attitudes to democracy, national identity, tradition, leadership, governance, development and international relations. The survey took place in late December 2020 and January 2021, and was conducted in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the lead up to what would prove an historic election.

State and Society in Papua New Guinea, 2001–2021 by Dr Ron May

We also invite you to celebrate the launch of *State and Society in Papua New Guinea, 2001–2021* by Dr Ronald J May at 6pm, Thursday 29 September 2022 in the Coombs Tea Room. Please register for this event through our eventbrite. There will be some refreshments at the event.

About the Publication

In a previous volume, *State and Society in Papua New Guinea: The First Twenty-Five Years* (2001, reprinted by ANU E Press in 2004), a collection of papers by the author published between 1971 and 2001 was put together to mark Papua New Guinea's first 25 years as an independent state. This volume presents a collection of papers written between 2001 and 2021, which update the story of political and social development in Papua New Guinea in the first two decades of the twenty-first century. The chapters cover a range of topics, including political reform, language policy, external and internal security, religious fundamentalism and national identity, and the sustainability of economic growth.

Social Media

Please help promote the conference using #SOTP2022 and tagging the following accounts:

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Pacific Research Program An Initiative of the Australian Aid Program



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Event Program

Wednesday 28 September 2022

1:30–3:00pm **Corruption and anti-corruption reform in the Pacific Islands
(Convenor: Dr Grant Walton)**

Speakers

Mr Michael Kabuni, PhD candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Mr Romulo Nayacalevu, RegNet, ANU

Dr Hannah Harris, Macquarie University

3:15–4:45pm **Surveying political attitudes in the Pacific
(Convenor: Professor Michael Leach)**

Speakers

Dr Chris Mudaliar, Swinburne University of Technology

Sau'ā Dr. Louise Mataia Milo, National University of Samoa

Professor Michael Leach, Swinburne University of Technology

5:00–6:00pm **Reception and report launch –
*Pacific Attitudes Survey: Samoa***

We invite you to join us to celebrate the Australian launch of the Pacific Attitudes Survey: Samoa at 5pm after the conclusion of the last panel.

Thursday 29 September 2022

8:00–9:30am **Opening Session & Welcome to Country – Consulting on
Bougainville's political future: both sides of the issue**

Speakers

Mr. Shadrach Himata, Chief Secretary to the Autonomous Bougainville Government

Mr. Ivan Pomaleu, PNG Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister

9:30–10:45am **The domestic politics of climate change in the Pacific
(Convenor: Ms Elise Howard)**

Speakers

Ms Kristina Fidali, PhD candidate, University of New England, Solomon Islands

Dr Esealofa Apinelu, Tuvalu High Commissioner Designate–Fiji

Dr Mema Motusaga, CEO of Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, Samoa

Ms Betty Barkha, PhD candidate, Monash University

10.45–11.00am **Morning Tea**

Event Program

Thursday 29 September 2022 (cont.)

11:00am–12:15pm **Pacific regional security (Convenor: Mr James Batley)**

Speakers

Associate Professor Sinclair Dinnen, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU
Salā Dr George Carter, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU
Associate Professor Graeme Smith, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU
Dr Judy Swann, International SOS, Canberra
Dr Henry Ivarature, Australia Pacific Security College, ANU

12:15–1:00pm **Lunch**

1:00–2:45pm **PNG elections and the challenge for democracy (Convenor: Dr Kerryn Baker)**

Speakers

Ms Arianne Kassman, CEO Transparency International Papua New Guinea
Associate Professor Anthony Regan, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU
Dr Colin Wiltshire, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU
Dr Thiago Cintra Oppermann, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU
Professor Nicole Haley, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

2:45–3:00pm **Afternoon Tea**

3:00–4:30pm **A new era of Pacific migration pathways (Convenor: Dr Rochelle-Lee Bailey)**

Speakers

Professor Stephen Howes, Development Policy Centre, ANU
Ms Akka Rimon, PhD candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU
Ms Tanya Pouwhare, Chair of New Zealand Ethical Employers
Dr Matt Withers, Department of Sociology, ANU

4:30–5:30pm **Pacific masculinities and feminisms: foes or friends? (Convenor: Dr Sonia Palmieri)**

Speakers

Dr Mercy Masta, Project Manager, Pacific, Conciliation Resources
Mr Romitesh Kant, PhD candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU
Dr Jessica Collins, Research Fellow, Lowy Institute
Dr Domenica Calabrò, Discipline Coordinator Gender Studies, USP
Dr Sonia Palmieri, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

6:00–8:00pm **Reception and book launch – *State and Society in Papua New Guinea, 2001-2021* by Dr Ron May**

We invite you to celebrate the launch of *State and Society in Papua New Guinea, 2001-2021* by Dr Ronald J May in the Coombs Tea Room.

Biographies



Dr Esealofa Apinelu

Tuvalu High Commissioner Designate – Fiji

Esealofa has recently taken up a post as Tuvalu's high commissioner to Fiji, after serving as attorney general of the Government of Tuvalu since 2008. She is a member of the Tuvalu Women for Change Association and is a role model and inspiration for many women in Tuvalu, as the first woman to qualify as a lawyer and then as first woman to be awarded with a doctoral degree. Esealofa served as senior crown counsel in Tuvalu from 2003–06 prior to undertaking a PhD at Swinburne University of Technology. Her research focused on customary and human rights in post-colonial Tuvalu with a particular focus on the disconnection between individual and collective rights in Tuvalu's development agendas. Esealofa also holds a Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting from the University of South Pacific.



Dr Rochelle-Lee Bailey

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Rochelle joined DPA as a research fellow to work on labour migration issues. She has conducted eight years of ethnographic research on Pacific labour mobility while researching New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme (RSE). Rochelle has worked on politics, intergovernmental relationships, regionalism, economics, social change, and migration issues in the Pacific since 2004. Since joining DPA, Rochelle has continued her research with her New Zealand and ni-Vanuatu participants alongside participants involved in Australia's Seasonal Worker Program, and has authored a number of DPA publications highlighting her research.



Dr Kerry Baker

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Kerry is a fellow in the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University. She has undertaken research in the French Pacific, Papua New Guinea (including Bougainville), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu and has published widely on gender, elections and political participation in the Pacific Islands region. Her book *Pacific Women in Politics: Gender Quota Campaigns in the Pacific Islands* was published by University of Hawaii Press in 2019 as was *Gender Innovation in Political Science: New Norms, New Knowledge* (Palgrave, 2019) which she co-edited with Marian Sawyer.



Associate Professor Julien Barbara

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Julien is an associate professor and head of the Department of Pacific Affairs. He conducts research on democracy, governance and development issues in the Pacific, with a recent focus on political participation. Julien was one of three chief investigators leading the piloting of the Pacific Attitudes Survey in Samoa in late 2020–early 2021. Prior to joining ANU he worked for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and for AusAID.



Ms Betty Barkha

PhD candidate, Monash University

Betty is a final year PhD student at Monash University's Centre for Gender, Peace and Security (Monash GPS) and currently she is the co-chair of the International Women's Development Agency. Betty also serves as an advisor to FRIDA Young Feminist Fund, the Global Resilience Fund and FHI 360. In 2017 Betty was the Monash GPS visiting youth fellow in women's rights in Asia and the Pacific. Her PhD research is focused on examining the gendered impacts of climate change-induced mobilities in the Pacific, specifically looking at planned relocation and displacement in Fiji.



Dr Domenica Gisella Calabrò

University of the South Pacific

Holding a PhD in cultural anthropology, Domenica is currently lecturer and discipline coordinator in gender studies at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. Her research interests include gender constructions and relations, indigeneity, migration and sport in the Pacific region.



Salā Dr George Carter

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

George is a research fellow at ANU. His research interests explore international politics of climate change (negotiations, security, finance, and knowledge), geopolitics and regionalism, as well as the foreign policy and diplomacies of small island states. He has undertaken research in multilateral forums including climate change, ocean, sustainable development negotiations, as well as in regional organisations and national governments across the Pacific. He is the director of the ANU's Pacific Institute. George teaches courses in international relations, security, climate change, diplomacy and Pacific Studies.



Dr Jessica Collins

Lowy Institute

Jessica is a research fellow in the Pacific Islands Program, Lowy Institute. Her research interests cover foreign aid and development policy in Pacific Island nations (particularly for Pacific women), Pacific migration, remittance policy, and Myanmar's humanitarian and refugee challenges. Jessica has a PhD in anthropology at the Queensland University of Technology and holds a Master of Global Development from Griffith University. Her honours research project, completed at the Queensland University of Technology, explored diasporic life for Samoans living in Brisbane.



Associate Professor Sinclair Dinnen

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Sinclair is an associate professor at DPA. He has a background in socio-legal studies and criminology, and completed his PhD at the Australian National University in 1996. His doctoral research investigated gang crime and other forms of communal conflict in PNG and was undertaken while working at the National Research Institute in Port Moresby. Sinclair also previously lectured in law at the University of Papua New Guinea. He has longstanding research interests in the areas of legal pluralism, policing and justice reform, conflict and peacebuilding, and ongoing processes of state and nation-building in the postcolonial Pacific.



Ms Kristina Fidali

PhD candidate, University of New England

From Solomon Islands, Kristina has worked in community development in the environment and development sectors, mostly for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Solomon Islands and as a freelance consultant in agriculture, forestry and the marine sector. Her work spans across project management, project development, climate change early adaptation planning, climate change education, environmental and social impact assessments, policy analysis, gender analysis in project development, youth environment education and resilience education in social environment systems.

Currently undertaking PhD studies at UNE, Kristina's thesis explores co-management processes and conditions facilitating and enhancing transformative capacity and resilience to manage complex problems, innovate with women and sustain an evolving conservation co-management between government, indigenous and migrant communities in Solomon Islands.



Professor Nicole Haley

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Nicole is an academic leader and scholar with over 30 years research experience. She leads and manages the Pacific Research Program (PRP), a Department of Pacific Affairs-led consortium which also includes the ANU Development Policy Centre and the Lowy Institute. The PRP is a major research and education investment, funded in partnership by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and ANU. A leading authority in elections and electoral politics in Papua New Guinea, Nicole has undertaken extensive ethnographic research in the upper Highlands region (Hela, Enga and Southern Highlands provinces) and has observed each of the last six PNG national elections. Her research interests include political anthropology; elections & electoral politics in the Pacific; social identity & land politics; women's leadership & political participation; conflict & armed violence; and the politics of service delivery.



Dr Hannah Harris

Macquarie University

A senior lecturer at Macquarie Law School, Hannah's research area is transnational law and corporate regulation. Her current work includes analysis of legislative responses to transnational challenges, including illegal logging, modern slavery and corruption. A key theme in Hannah's research is the way in which power dynamics and diverse values and interests shape regulatory regimes and impact the effectiveness of these regimes across diverse jurisdictions. Hannah's 2019 book: *The Global Anti-Corruption Regime – The Case of Papua New Guinea* (Routledge) documents the evolution of a global regime to combat corrupt activity, highlighting the challenges faced in implementing and enforcing this regime. The interplay between legal, social, political and economic dynamics is at the heart of Hannah's approach to legal research and continues to inform her research on corruption and other forms of transnational crime and corporate misconduct.



Ms Elise Howard

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Elise's research explores women's leadership and security in the context of climate change in the Pacific. Her research focuses on gender inequalities, leadership pathways and the structural changes needed to build greater inclusion of women's perspectives in decision-making. Elise has also worked as a researcher at James Cook University, where she managed research projects that looked at women's career progression in higher education, girls' participation in science, good practice in student exchange and students' global citizenship and intercultural awareness. For her masters thesis, Elise explored culturally-appropriate evaluation through the Indi Kindi pre-literacy program in Borroloola, a town 1,000 kms from Darwin. Elise has also held project management and community engagement roles with the Victorian Public Service, the Australian Agency for International Development and the International Women's Development Agency.



Professor Stephen Howes

Development Policy Centre, ANU

Stephen is a professor of economics at the Crawford School of Public Policy at ANU. He is the director of the Development Policy Centre, having served as director of the International and Development Economics program of the Crawford School from 2009–14. Stephen is editor-in-chief of the *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies* journal and co-edits *Devpolicy.org*, the blog of the Development Policy Centre. Stephen is a member of the advisory group appointed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the PALM (Pacific Australia Labour Mobility) scheme. He is chair of Femili PNG, an NGO that supports survivors of family and sexual violence in Papua New Guinea. Stephen has worked at the Australian Agency for International Development, the World Bank, and on the 2008 Garnaut Review on Climate Change. He contributed to the 2006 Australian Aid White Paper, the 2010–11 Independent Review of [Australian] Aid Effectiveness and was a member of the 2016 Australia–Pacific Technical College Design Reference Group. Stephen was part of the advisory group that reviewed PNG’s 2000 Central Banking Act. He also chaired a 2021 interdepartmental working group established by the Department of Foreign Affairs to promote Pacific participation in Australia’s Temporary Skills Shortage Visa.



Dr Henry Ivarature

Australia Pacific Security College, ANU

Henry is a Pacific fellow and interim deputy director with the Australia Pacific Security College (APSC), ANU. Before joining the APSC, he worked as a national, regional and international civil servant. His current role involves supporting the implementation of the 2018 Boe Declaration on Regional Security 2018, in particular, national security strategies.



Mr Michael Kabuni

PhD candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Michael is a PhD candidate at the Department of Pacific Affairs. Before coming to ANU he was a lecturer with the Political Science Department at the University of Papua New Guinea.



Mr Romitesh Kant

PhD candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Romitesh began his PhD candidacy with the DPA at ANU in 2022. His doctoral research examines the symbiotic relationship between politics and masculinity in the Fijian national context. He completed his Bachelor of Arts (history/politics and economics), Post Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies and Master of Arts (politics and international affairs) at the University of the South Pacific.



Ms Arianne Kassman

Transparency International Papua New Guinea

Arianne is the CEO of Transparency International Papua New Guinea (TIPNG). Arianne leads a dedicated and dynamic team at TIPNG, working to empower Papua New Guineans to act against corruption. She has over a decade of experience working in anti-corruption, providing platforms for young people to contribute and lead youth anti-corruption initiatives, and contributing to equipping citizens with the knowledge and tools to fight corruption. Arianne led TIPNG's observation of the 2022 PNG national general election.



Professor Michael Leach

Swinburne University of Technology

Michael is professor in politics and international relations at Swinburne University of Technology. His research interests include nation-building in Asia-Pacific, and the politics of Timor-Leste and Pacific nations. He is a co-founder of the Timor-Leste Studies Association.



Dr Mercy Masta

Conciliation Resources Australia

Mercy recently completed her PhD thesis titled *Pacific Masculinities: Exploring Men's Perspectives and Experiences of Masculinity, and Efforts to Engage Men and Boys in Preventing Violence in Papua New Guinea and Fiji*. Mercy's research addresses the lack of Pacific Island men's voices in gender and masculinity research and programming. She has worked on Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade programs in PNG, including the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Program. In the Pacific region, Mercy has been involved in programs focused on health and HIV, gender equality and women's empowerment, and youth development. She currently works with Conciliation Resources Australia, a peace-building organisation that operates in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.



Saui'a Dr Louise Mataia Milo

National University of Samoa

Louise is a historian and is currently the dean of the Faculty of Arts at the National University of Samoa. She was one of the researchers in the Pacific Attitudes Survey. Her areas of interest include Pacific history, politics and Pacific women's experiences in global conflicts.



Dr Mema Motusaga

Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSO), Samoa

Mema is the CEO of the Samoan Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development. She is a strong gender, youth and human rights advocate. Since 2000 Mema has worked on youth and women's inclusion as a public servant with the Samoan government, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and at the National University of Samoa. As the Samoa country focal officer, she has managed the Legislative Change Project on Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls, a project funded by the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT). Upon completion of her PhD in gender studies, she held the portfolio of Samoa gender specialist and program manager from 2015 to 2018 for the Samoa Women Shaping Development programme, under the Division for Women of the MWCSO, that funded and commissioned the 2017 Samoa Family Safety Study on family violence. She worked as a senior lecturer for gender and development studies at NUS before joining the Secretariat of the Pacific Community as the team leader for Youth and Social Inclusion under the Social Development Programme, from November 2018 to 2021, before heading back home to take up the current leadership role for the MWCSO.



Dr Chris Mudaliar

Swinburne University of Technology

Chris is a research fellow at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne. His research interests include national identity construction and nation-building in the Asia-Pacific, and the politics of Fiji. Prior to his fellowship he completed a doctorate in political science focusing on nationalism and nation-building in Fiji. Currently Chris is working on designing and implementing national political attitudes surveys in the Pacific. This includes a recent national political attitudes survey in Samoa.



Mr Romulo Nayacalevu

School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet), ANU

Before joining the School of Regulation and Global Governance at ANU, Romulo was the program manager for governance and legal affairs with the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat in Vanuatu. Previously, Romulo was a senior human rights adviser with the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team, supporting 14 Pacific governments on a range of human rights issues, including the reporting and implementation of core human rights treaties. He has also worked at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – Pacific Regional Office. His interests are around human rights implementation in the Pacific and in particular, human rights protection mechanisms and governance in Pacific states.



Dr Thiago Cintra Oppermann

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Thiago is an anthropologist working on political and social organisation in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, with a particular interest in the emergence of distinctive forms of Melanesia statecraft. He has been involved in multiple electoral observations in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Samoa.



Dr Sonia Palmieri

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Sonia's research interests lie in the social and cultural conditions that legitimise women's leadership in political institutions, including parliaments. In parallel, Sonia explores with students and her disciplinary peers, opportunities and strategies for more inclusive research methodologies, particularly feminist methodologies.

This research agenda is built on 15 years' experience of working in academic, development and parliamentary institutions. She has held positions with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (in Geneva, Switzerland), the United Nations Development Program (in Hanoi, Vietnam), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (in New York, USA), and the Australian parliament. As an independent development practitioner, she has engaged with current and aspiring women in politics in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific, and has designed and evaluated development projects for Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Ms Tanya Pouwhare

Chair of New Zealand Ethical Employers

Tanya is CEO of New Zealand Ethical Employers (NZEE), an organisation adding value to families and communities by guiding and supporting the members/employers to raise employment standards and create rights-respecting environments that put people at the heart. Tanya believes that together we can foster an employment environment that advances the safety, security and welfare of all people. Tanya has 21 years' experience in broadcasting and documentary television production that provides her with rich insights into the diverse experiences of thousands of New Zealanders. Since 2013, she has owned and managed a vineyard in Marlborough and was the operations manager of her family's labour supply business for eight years. Tanya offers a unique perspective of being both grower and employer of seasonal labour.



Associate Professor Anthony Regan

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Anthony is a constitutional lawyer who specialises in constitutional development and conflict resolution. He has lived and worked in Papua New Guinea for 15 years and in Uganda for three years. In PNG he advised government on decentralisation policy and law and was joint author with Yash Ghai of the 1992 PNG National Research Institute (NRI) volume *The Law, Politics and Administration of Decentralisation in Papua New Guinea*, taught at the UPNG law faculty, and was involved in the Bougainville peace process. In Uganda he was a constitutional adviser to the Government of Uganda. He has been an adviser to Bougainville parties in the Bougainville peace process since 1994, and has been involved in the Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka peace processes, and the constitution-making process in Timor Leste. He was joint author with Ted Wolfers of the 1988 NRI volume, *Reforming the Electoral Process in Papua New Guinea: A Handbook of Issues and Options*.



Ms Akka Rimon

PhD candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Akka is a PhD candidate with the Department of Pacific Affairs, Coral Bell School. She is one of three inaugural recipients of the Australia-Pacific Security College PhD Scholarship Awards. Her research explores labour migration as an economic adaptation to climate-induced displacement in the Pacific, providing a small island perspective from Kiribati. Prior to commencing her candidature with the DPA in 2022, she served in the Government of Kiribati as a senior administration officer for 13 years. In 2013, she was appointed secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration before joining the World Bank in 2016.



Associate Professor Graeme Smith

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Graeme is an associate professor and senior fellow in ANU's Department of Pacific Affairs. His research team explores the People's Republic of China's investment, migration, military engagement, technology and aid in the Asia-Pacific, with projects in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Vietnam. He is the co-author, with Terence Wesley-Smith, of *The China Alternative: Changing Regional Order in the Pacific Islands* and also hosts the award-winning *Little Red Podcast* with Louisa Lim, which covers China beyond the Beijing beltway.



Dr Judy Swann

International SOS, Canberra; Head, Military Health Services – Pacific

Judy is the head of Military Health Services – Pacific, and is responsible for client relationship management and priorities with key agencies including defence, paramilitary, maritime and peace keeping sectors in the Pacific. Judy's previous roles with the Department of Defence included international and strategic policy areas, and civil military preparedness. Judy has previously served as senior Defence cabinet advisor, as well as with the Defence COVID-19 taskforce, International Policy and the Joint Health Command. Within Defence, Judy implemented the Pacific Maritime Surveillance Program, and led international agreements in infrastructure projects across the Pacific.

Judy led the development of interagency reports for the Australian Government on a range of international responses including Tropical Cyclone Pam, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the downing of Malaysia Airlines MH17 in Ukraine. Previously, Judy worked in the social policy sector in non-government organisations spanning rural health; women, peace and security; and remote Indigenous leadership. Judy's PhD Thesis on *Leadership Development in the Police and Military Forces of the South Pacific* has recently been published online.



Dr Grant Walton

Development Policy Centre, ANU

Grant is a fellow at the Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy and chair of the Transnational Research Institute on corruption. He is on the editorial board for the journal *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies* and is the convenor of the integrity and anti-corruption specialisation of the Crawford School's master of public policy.



Dr Colin Wiltshire

Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Colin is a research fellow in the politics of service delivery at the Department of Pacific Affairs. His research explores the political economy of budget and expenditure practices in PNG and its implications for development outcomes. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in PNG and focuses on applied policy-relevant research. Colin managed the PNG Promoting Effective Public Expenditure Project, a joint research initiative with PNG's National Research Institute. This research involved conducting one of the largest independent expenditure tracking and service delivery surveys in PNG's history, and hosting influential budget forums in PNG. Most recently he was the lead researcher for the 2019 Solomon Islands National General Election Observation and the Managing Development in Solomon Islands Constituencies project.



Dr Matt Withers

Department of Sociology, ANU

Matt joined the School of Sociology at ANU in 2022, following research fellowships at Macquarie University (2019–22) and the University of Toronto (2018). His research critically examines various aspects of the relationship between temporary labour migration and development across the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus on Sri Lanka and Pacific Island countries. His first book, *Sri Lanka's Remittance Economy*, addresses the limitations of remittances as a form of developmental capital. His current research situates the gendered care implications of transnational family separation within the migration-development debate.

Contact us

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