



AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ASIA PACIFIC FUTURES RESEARCH NETWORK

www.sueztosuva.org.au

ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network

PROJECT SUMMARIES

First Round 2005

PA10501

Applicant: Associate Professor Robert Power
Affiliation: Centre for Harm Reduction
Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health
Project Title: "Development of a Pacific Drug Use Research Network"
Awarded: \$ 7000

This project comprised a two day workshop in which participants worked towards establishing a Pacific Drug Use Research Network and developing key research priorities for illicit drug issues in the Pacific region. It intended to achieve the following: to create opportunities for inter-disciplinary and multi-method social science research in the Pacific region, nurture postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers as academic and professional collaborators in the Pacific and Australia, create sustainable research partnerships between government agencies, community bodies and those interested in licit and illicit drug use concerns and to establish a virtual network through a new E-Forum. Most significantly, the project proposed to fill considerable gaps in research and publicly available documentation in relation to drug use and its associated community and social issues in the Pacific. It did this by enhancing postgraduate and postdoctoral student opportunities by forging links between Australian and Pacific Universities and focusing on employment and placement openings arising from the Network research projects. The resulting Pacific Drug Use Research Network has also positioned itself to build research capacity and develop programming in order to advise the Australian Government upon its contribution to Asia Pacific illicit drug policy, interventions and future research.

PA10503

Applicant: Dr Pamela Thomas
Affiliation: Development Studies, Research School of Social Sciences
The Australian National University
Project Title: "International Symposium on Illicit Drugs and Development: Critical Issues for Asia and the Pacific"
Awarded: \$ 6000

In collaboration with the Macfarlane Burnet Institute, this two day international symposium and one day policy round table discussion was held at the Visions Theatre, National Museum of Australia. The central aim of this project was to encourage multi-disciplinary and regional networking on the critical issue of illicit drugs in relation to security and development

in the Asia-Pacific region, build a regional understanding of the relationship between illicit drugs, stability, poverty reduction and development and identify key principles and policies which would underpin future approaches to development, security and drug reduction. Key researchers, government and non-government planners, economists, health and development professionals and legislators met from across Asia and the Pacific to represent a wide range of perspectives, disciplines and organisations. Complexities discussed included the rise in production, trafficking and consumption of illegal drugs, responding to the current lack of acknowledgment and understanding of the crucial role of drugs in the governance, economy, security and social development of communities and Asia-Pacific nations. Subsequent round table discussion encouraged the participation of researchers and postgraduate students to review various regional perspectives relating to the development and security aspects of illicit drugs. The symposium papers, together with additional commissioned research reports and key points from symposium discussion were published and widely distributed through the Asia Pacific region in a special issue of the journal *Development Bulletin*.

PA10506

Applicants: Dr Shahram Akbarzadeh and Dr Fethi Mansouri
Affiliation: Monash University & Deakin University
Project Title: "An International Conference on Islam, Human Rights and Xenophobia"
Awarded: \$ 7300

This conference brought together several key Australian scholars in the study of Islam and Muslim affairs along with a number of international experts in the field. Participants focussed upon Muslim responses to increasing political, social and security challenges in a global era to explore the impact of Islam's increasing salience upon contemporary local and world politics. Their scholarly and professional presentations drew attention to the critical issues of human rights, civil society, international politics, security and conflict resolution, and prompted close scrutiny of current Australian and international policies adopted with regard to Islam and Muslims in the context of regional and civil conflicts. This project provided a much needed opportunity for the exchange of significant and innovative ideas concerning Australia's relations with the Muslim world, create links between Australian and international research and allow young scholars to benefit from the concentration of expertise. Additional objectives of showcasing Australian expertise to international colleagues, editing and publishing two collections of conference proceedings and the exploration of areas of common interest for future scholarly collaboration were also achieved as part of the joint venture.

PA10507

Applicant: Dr Lenore Lyons
Affiliation: Centre for Asia-Pacific Social Transformations Studies
University of Wollongong
Project Title: "Winter Postgraduate Workshop on Citizenship, Identity and Mobility in the Asia-Pacific"
Awarded: \$ 8500

The inaugural CAPSTRANS winter workshop was conceived with three primary aims in mind: to assist doctoral students to enhance their academic knowledge and expertise, to encourage their development of scholarly networks and to aid their work towards a peer-reviewed publication. Doctoral students working on a range of topics at the intersection of citizenship, identity and mobility in the Asia-Pacific region were drawn together across various disciplines to participate in a three day residential program. Themes under

discussion included migration and transnational citizenship, borders and boundaries, the impact of migration on constructions of identity and the examination of how citizenship is practiced and/or experienced by differently mobile communities. Through the presentation of short papers on their research, students were also offered the opportunity to discuss their research with peers and CAPSTRANS mentors. Specific knowledge and skills acquired during the workshop was intended to assist students in publishing their own research.

PA10508

Applicant: Professor Vera Mackie
Affiliation: Department of History, University of Melbourne
Project Title: "Gendering Governance and Security in Australia, Asia and the Pacific"
Awarded: \$ 10,000

This project comprised a one day workshop at the University of Technology Sydney, directly preceding the Eighth Women in Asia Conference of September 2005. International speakers from the Conference and local experts were invited to present papers on future directions in research on the topic of gendering governance and security, with postgraduate students and early career researchers simultaneously funded to present their ongoing research of the workshop topic. Each postgraduate student was also assigned a mentor to assist in developing their papers to a publishable standard. The overall intentions of the workshop were to stimulate research collaboration in an area of national importance, facilitate the formation of a network of researchers with common interests and provide mentoring to postgraduates and early career researchers. This project offered a much needed opportunity to establish a network of researchers on gendering governance and security, and also gave young researchers an opportunity to benefit from closely integrated professional development, from conference presentation to publication. The workshop proceedings were then submitted to various journals including *Asian Studies Review*, *Intersections* and the *International Feminist Journal of Politics* for consideration as a special issue.

PA10510

Applicant: Professor Nick Knight
Affiliation: Griffith Asia Institute (GAI), Griffith University
Project Title: "China, Korea, Japan—the evolution of a strained regional relationship"
Awarded: \$ 6750

This international workshop examined heightened tensions between the People's Republic of China and South Korea and Japan. Its interdisciplinary approach brought together scholars of history, anthropology, sociology, political science, economics and international relations, to discuss the impact of rising tensions in Northeast Asia upon regional and international politics. In drawing attention to the highly relevant nature of these tensions to Australia's economic and political relationships, the project also strove to avoid perceiving tensions exclusively from the discipline of international relations. Instead, and innovatively, it contextualised them in historical relations and in cultural similarities and differences. It also aimed to produce an edited volume. By gathering together scholars from China, Korea, Japan and Australia, this workshop provided a unique opportunity for specialists from Northeast Asia and Australia to articulate and expand on their viewpoints, and to deepen their understanding of the reasons for the heightened tensions in the regions together with how these might be eased. The participation of postgraduate students during the workshop and mentoring sessions with attending experienced academics was actively fostered in line with the main goals of the project.

PA10511

Applicant: Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki
Affiliation: Pacific & Asian History, Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies, ANU
Project Title: "The Asia Pacific Regional Migration Forum"
Awarded: \$ 8000

This project established a network of academics, NGOs, human rights lawyers, relevant government officials and others with a special interest in refugee and migrant rights and preparing for future refugee crises in the Asia-Pacific. It provided an opportunity for the exchange of research and information (through seminars, visitor programs and conferences) and offered relevant education and training (through short courses and teaching materials based on the research and exchange activities). As part of the proceedings, a two day workshop was held in Canberra, where Australia-based migration experts and ANU and UNE academics and doctoral students to develop their professional networks, share ideas and knowledge and begin to develop a Forum. The most innovative aspect of the project was its fusion of academic learning and enormous body of knowledge with the practical experience of NGOs and migrant communities. This process allowed for the development of alternative approaches to migration with a strong human rights foundation and critical to a systematic approach towards finding solutions to migrant rights issues and preparation for future crises. The workshop also maximised postgraduate and postdoctoral participation, fostering links between PhD students working on similar themes across Australia.

PA10512

Applicants: Professors Stephanie Donald, Robin Jeffrey and Krishna Sen
Affiliation: UTS, LaTrobe, Curtin
Project Title: "Emerging Giants: Television, Politics and Societal Change in China, India and Indonesia"
Awarded: \$ 8000

This project was established to map the growth of television in China, India and Indonesia over the past 15 years and the impact this has had on the politics of the three countries. It took into account three very different histories whilst attempting to see the common trajectories of television in Asia's three most populous nations. Comparative study of this nature had not been carried out previously and the project therefore contributed significantly towards the study of international politics, cultural studies and media studies. It sought achieve the following: to understand how satellite and/or cable television has grown and to construct a current and future picture of the TV market in the three countries, to chart the evolution of broadcasting law and thereby understand the governmental response in each case, to analyse the impact of this television revolution on the politics within a comparative framework, to explore the impact of television on ideas of nationhood identity and language formation and to map the impact of television on processes of democratisation, empowerment and emergence of new political choices. The project incorporated seminars in India, China, Indonesia and Australia, stretching over two years to culminate with an APFRN signature event on "media and media change". Stage 1 consisted of a series of panels at International Congress of Asian Studies in Shanghai in August 2005, whilst Stage 2 involved a two day seminar and workshops. Upon each occasion, postgraduate and postdoctoral research workshops and seminars were offered and senior postdoctoral researchers were invited to make key contributions as the project unfolded.

PA10514

Applicants: Professors Krishna Sen and John McGuire, Dr Maila Stivens, Dr Suvendrini Perera
Affiliation: Curtin University of Technology and University of Melbourne
Project Title: "Gendered transportations: Negotiating mobility and displacement in South and Southeast Asia"
Awarded: \$ 6500

This workshop focussed on the effects engendered by multiple forms of mobility and displacement in South and Southeast Asia under globalisation. It took a decidedly comparative and interdisciplinary approach: by examining intersections and divergences between the two regions and between particular states, e.g. India and Malaysia, by exploring the correlations between domestic mobility and international migration, e.g. displacement in local refugee camps and guest worker or refugee status in the global north, and finally, by paying attention to the affective as well as material and physical effects of gendered mobilities and displacements. The workshop, held at Curtin University of Technology, was the first of its kind to focus on gender, globalisation and security in South and Southeast Asia from an interdisciplinary perspective that combined area studies, gender studies and cultural studies. It was innovative in its emphasis on the gendered effects of displacement, disaster and conflict in zones that pose complex human and national security problems. Speakers also took regional cross-cultural perspectives to address questions of gender, displacement and reconstruction in relation to the December 2004 tsunami, while workshop participants included policymakers and representatives of aid and reconstruction organisations as well as academic researchers in a range of disciplines. Postgraduate students were involved at each stage of the organisation and implementation of the workshop and in the publication of an edited volume.

PA10515

Applicant: Professor Riaz Hassan
Affiliation: Department of Sociology, Flinders University
Project Title: "Philanthropy for Social Justice in Muslim Countries"
Awarded: \$ 6840

The three day workshop at Flinders University brought together Australian and international scholars to discuss and debate the traditions of philanthropy in Islam and their practice in Muslim countries of the Asia-Pacific region. A longstanding tradition of philanthropy in Muslim societies that is deeply embedded in religious beliefs of Islam means that as part of their religious duty, Muslims are required to give a proportion of their income to provide for the welfare of socially and economically disadvantaged in society. The aim of this project was therefore to examine and explore the implications of the contemporary practices of Islamic philanthropy for promoting social justice and economic development in Muslim countries. Participants specifically addressed the following issues: concepts and institutions underpinning philanthropy in Muslim countries, estimates of the religiously motivated philanthropy in Muslim countries, motivations and practices for Islamic philanthropy (parochial vs strategic), distributional aspects of Muslim philanthropy and its implications for social justice, development and human rights, Muslim philanthropy, religious orthodoxy and Islamic militancy and Muslim philanthropy in Australia. Leading national and international scholars met with postgraduate students from the three South Australian universities who attended the workshop and were then assisted in visiting other Australian universities to meet with their scholars and postgraduate students.