

GRIFFITH ASIA INSTITUTE

Strategy 2018-2021



An internationally-
recognised research
centre reflecting
Griffith University's
longstanding
commitment to
the study of and
engagement with
nations of Asia and
the near Pacific.

Our focus

Griffith Asia Institute embraces the complexity and diversity of the Asia-Pacific region, with an emphasis on the strategic trends and dynamics that impact on regional order.

Our research focuses on the politics, security, economies and development of the Asia Pacific and their significance for Australia.

Our inter-disciplinary advantage lies in Griffith University's commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the region.

Our vision

To be the informed voice leading Australia's strategic engagement in the Asia Pacific.

Our mission

Cultivate the knowledge, capabilities and connections that will inform and enrich Australia's Asia-Pacific future.

Our values

- Research excellence
- Respect for others
- Sustainable outcomes
- Collaborative teamwork
- Global orientation





ENGAGING IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) exists today as a reflection of both Griffith University's past commitment and forward-looking aspirations to understand and engage in the Asia Pacific.



Over the past decade the Institute has grown in both influence and reputation. The combination of world renowned Asia-Pacific scholarship and research, strong institutional partnerships into the region, and ability to promote informed debate within the Australian community have contributed to this positioning.

While the changing landscape in the Asia Pacific reflects the importance to Australia of understanding and engaging with the region and offers opportunities for productive collaborations, it also reflects a more competitive research and engagement environment within which we must work to maintain influence and contemporary relevance for the local, national and regional contexts. This changing contemporary environment requires us to reimagine and reset our strategic vision and position.

We have the unique potential to engage at the nexus where varying disciplines within academia and government and industry meet. We therefore aim to use our diverse knowledge base to inform and positively benefit Australia's engagement with the Asia-Pacific region and contribute to the University's overarching goals outlined in the Griffith 2020 Agenda.

We look forward to working with you as we implement our strategy.

Professor Caitlin Byrne

Director

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Conducting, supporting and delivering excellent and relevant research on the politics, security, economies and development of the Asia-Pacific region

Academic rigour and independence are key components underlying our research. We will build our expertise and develop a culture of collaborative research that has economic and social value for impact.

Goals and initiatives:

- Grow our research expertise and capacity.
- Increase and diversify research income.
- Develop and lead collaborative, interdisciplinary and applied research programs.
- Support and foster a culture and community committed to research excellence.





ACTIONS

Appoint research lead

Recruit early career
researchers

Build HDR pipeline through
scholarships and increased
student engagement

Targeted research support
including for development of
collaborative projects with
government and industry

ASIA'S SECURITY

Research across the full spectrum of security challenges facing our region, from strategic competition between the major powers to nuclear deterrence and maritime security, from gender and inclusion to the protection of human rights and the provision of post-conflict justice.



HIGHLIGHTS

Understanding the rise of China

Understanding China's rise and its implications for Asia and the world is an imperative task for scholars and policy makers. Supported by the MacArthur Foundation this collaborative project with Tsinghua University's Institute of International Relations examines the international relations debates in China.

Accountability for past human rights violations in South Asia

This project aims to explain South Asian responses to local and international demands for accountability for past gross human rights violations. Global accountability norms hold that the perpetrators of such violations should be held to account for their actions. Yet in South Asia, where up to 3 million lives have been lost in political violence since 1970, state responses are variable and often inconsistent with these norms.

ASIAN POLITICS

Politics research interests encompass the collective efforts, governance and structural institutions aimed at maintaining order and stability and promoting legitimacy. Research covers a range of issues including economic and health governance, women's leadership, elections and regional architectures.



The rise of sophisticated authoritarianism in South East Asia

Dr Lee Morgenbesser examines authoritarian rule in South East Asia. Against the backdrop of a global democratic recession, the project seeks to identify how dictators and dominant parties have learnt to maintain power using increasingly sophisticated techniques.

ASIAN ECONOMIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Research canvasses a range of issues from political economy and capacity building to opportunities and challenges for business engagement, innovation and growth. Research explores foreign direct investment, free trade agreements, international entrepreneurship, knowledge and innovation across borders, international finance, sustainable development and issues affecting economies in developing countries.



Capacity building in the central banks of the South Pacific

This project brings together leading economic and finance experts to help build the capacity for research and policy formulation at the central banks in the South Pacific, through joint working papers, research seminars, symposiums, conferences and other research activities. The projects aim to improve the emerging research engagement and collaboration between Griffith and the region's central banks.

Agribusiness

Led by Associate Professor Robin Roberts Griffith Agribusiness delivers applied research studies encompassing agricultural trade, product development and market demand in developed and developing countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

ACTIONS

Focus track 1.5 conversations:
China, Japan, Indonesia,
Diplomacy, Security

Develop key institutional
partnerships

Appoint industry fellows

Establish a GAI Business
Briefing series

Offer educational
opportunities in understanding
and engagement with Asia





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Facilitating effective partnerships and policy outcomes for positive impact in the region

Policy relevant and practical outcomes that are backed up by rigorous, independent, academic research is a key point of difference and strength for the Institute. We will build partnerships that bring together government and industry representatives with academics to better inform and influence decisions that will benefit Australia and the region now and in the future.

Goals and initiatives:

- Facilitate strategic (track 1.5) conversations for policy impact.
- Engage industry fellows and champions of our research agenda.
- Build capacity in the region through strategic partnerships.
- Align engagement with research priorities and policy interests.

PROGRAMS



Collaborative Australia-Indonesia program on sustainable development and climate change

This program was recently launched to strengthen regional interdisciplinary expertise on sustainable development and climate change across the two countries. The Program will facilitate high-level bilateral dialogues, multidisciplinary research collaborations, higher degree research support and student mobility opportunities.

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUES



Fostering relationships in the Asia Pacific through high level dialogues is key to informing and influencing Australia's Asia-Pacific policies. We continue to hold high-profile dialogue events in partnership with government, university and industry representatives across the Asia-Pacific region.

Australian-Japan Dialogue

The Australia-Japan Dialogue is an annual bi-lateral event hosted by the Griffith Asia Institute first established in 2011. The dialogue brings together high-level representatives from government as well as academic and think tank experts from a variety of institutions in Australia, Japan, the ASEAN states, and the United States to discuss a range of issue areas including, disaster management, security cooperation, and energy security. The dialogue helps to promote collaborative research and publication on the bilateral relationship and its significance in the broader region.

BUSINESS BRIEFINGS



GAI's Business Briefing series is a program of exclusive boardroom style luncheons held in Brisbane featuring a prominent speaker addressing key issues in the region that have implications for government and industry. This invitation only event provides the opportunity for senior executives to hear from experts and share ideas and insights on a particular issue. Past speakers have included the Lowy Institute's Richard McGregor and former Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

INFORMING PUBLIC DEBATE

Leading and informing public debate on Australia's place in the Asia Pacific

We will translate research and demonstrate the breadth and depth of the University's commitment to and connections in the Asia Pacific to inform and enrich Australia's Asia-Pacific future.

Goals and initiatives:

- Develop the Griffith Asia Lecture into a nationally recognised signature event.
- Expand on Perspectives: Asia – including through a regional presence.
- Deliver meaningful, accessible and timely commentary on issues shaping Australia's engagement in the region.





ACTIONS

Attract and confirm high profile leaders to deliver the Griffith Asia Lecture

Build Perspectives: Asia and deliver one event annually in the region

Establish, launch and develop the GAI State of the Neighbourhood Report annually

Develop media engagement: local, national and regional

HIGHLIGHTS

GRIFFITH ASIA LECTURE



A signature event for the Institute that aims to promote contemporary thought leadership in the Asia Pacific, inform debate on current regional developments, and engage the community on issues of significance for Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Past speakers have included Mr Peter Varghese AO, Mr Marty Natalegawa, former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia and Mr John Howard.

PERSPECTIVES:ASIA



Since 2005 the Griffith Asia Institute alongside the QAGoMA's Australian Centre of Asia Pacific Art launched a series of public lectures 'Perspectives: Asia' that encourages debates, promotes culture, awareness and understanding in society about the region. Each year the series hosts a diverse range of high level speakers on various topics (sport, cooking, fashion, art and politics) that look at Australia's relationship with its neighbours.

STATE OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



The 2018 *State of the Neighbourhood* report is a Griffith Asia Institute publication offering fresh perspectives on the key issues affecting Australia and its “neighbourhood”. The report aims to share our research insights and encourage informed community debate. The 2018 report examined issues including geopolitics, the region’s economic outlook, the rise of Asian cities, climate change and health diplomacy.

ASIA INSIGHTS



Asia Insights offers the latest commentary on Asia-Pacific affairs and aims to inform and foster academic scholarship, public awareness and considered and responsive policy making.

The background of the slide features a photograph of several young people, likely students, sitting at a table. The image is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent red overlay that covers the left and central portions of the frame. On the right side, a black and white portion of the same photograph is visible, showing a student with glasses and another person. The overall composition suggests a focus on student engagement and community.

ACTIONS

Appoint Work Integrated Learning supervisor to develop Asia-ready academic program

Develop suite of Asia-ready courses

Develop industry partnerships to support internships

Extend the reach of our internship destinations

Foster GAI student community and alumni

Renew partnership with Peking University for Asia Future Fellows Program



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION

Shaping the next generation of Asia-Pacific leaders through internships and exchanges

We will aim to enhance the student learning experience and provide Griffith students with Asia capable skills and knowledge.

Goals and initiatives:

- Deliver the flagship Asia Future Fellows Program with Peking University.
- Convene the Griffith Business School's Asia-Pacific Work Integrated Learning Program.
- Equip students with the knowledge, skills and experience for future success.
- Deepen business links to support internships, exchanges and positive learning experiences in the region.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES



Higher degree by research

Higher degree by research (HDR) students play an important role in the research efforts of the Griffith Asia Institute, with student projects closely aligned with the Institute's primary research programs. Members provide a quality training environment for students who are supported during their candidature through scholarships, conference and travel grants, and tailored HDR workshops.



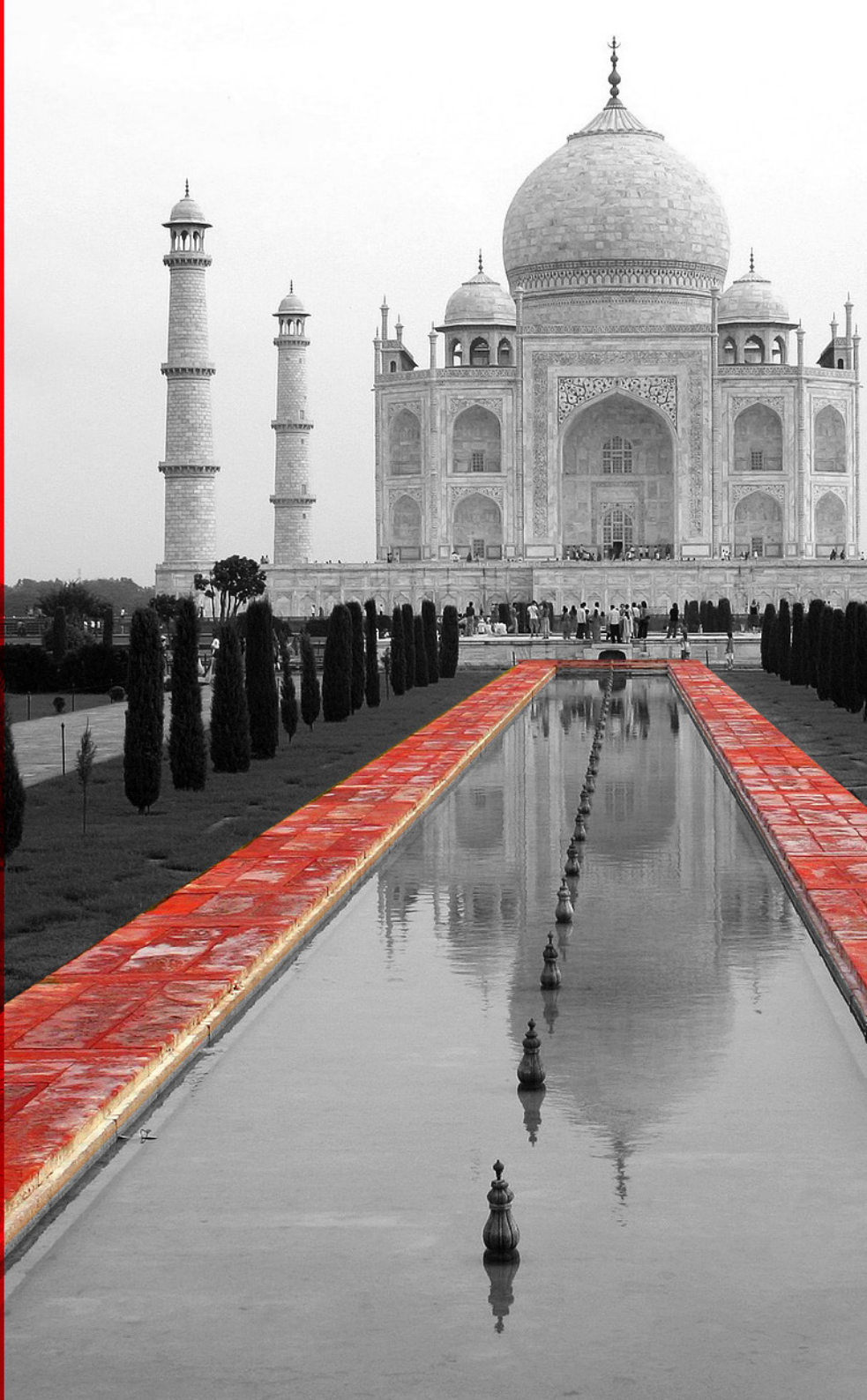
Asia Future Fellows

Providing opportunities for Griffith and Peking University undergraduate students to enrich their studies, experience a different culture and make personal and future professional connections. The Program sees Griffith University and Peking University students coming together for two intensive one-week programs held in Brisbane and Beijing. Students are exposed to a range of activities, including seminars, government and industry briefings and voluntary work with a charity in Beijing.



Global work integrated learning (WIL)

The Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program is designed for high-achieving undergraduate and postgraduate students across a number of destinations in Asia. The benefits of global internships allow the students the opportunity to increase employability by gaining practical exposure to a professional environment in an international setting. In 2018 GAI partnered with the Australian Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong and Macau (AustCham Hong Kong and Macau) to facilitate Griffith Business School students' placements in Hong Kong. Other destinations include China, Indonesia, Japan and Republic of Korea.





OUR SUCCESS

Realising our strategy will not only mean we lift the quality and volume of our research outputs and increase our research income, it will see deepened and sustained partnerships, demonstrated positive impact on national and regional policy outcomes, and it will contribute to positive experiences and career success for Griffith students.

GRIFFITH ASIA INSTITUTE

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