



# PERSPECTIVES:ASIA

# 20

— YEARS —





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Inside front cover: Kelsey O'Brien, Griffith Asia Institute and Perspectives:Asia speaker Dr Peter K Lee in the exhibition 'Air', GOMA, March 2023 | *Photograph: Chloë Callistemon, QAGOMA*

Page 1: Dandelion fountains at Queensland Art Gallery | *Photograph: Natasha Harth, QAGOMA*

Page 2: Chiharu Shiota / Japan b.1972 / A question of perspective 2022 / Commissioned 2022 with funds from Tim Fairfax AC through the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art Foundation / Collection: QAGOMA / © Chiharu Shiota | *Photograph: Merinda Campbell, QAGOMA*

Page 3: Lyno Vuth / Cambodia b.1982 / House - Spirit (installation view) 2018 / Purchased 2018. Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art Foundation / Collection: Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art / © Lyno Vuth | *Photograph: Natasha Harth, QAGOMA*

# Celebrating 20 years of Perspectives:Asia

2025 marks the 20th anniversary of the Perspectives:Asia public lecture series, a collaboration between the Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) and the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) through the Australian Centre of Asia Pacific Art (ACAPA).

Established in 2005 as a collaborative initiative between the Griffith Asia Institute and the Queensland Art Gallery's Australian Centre of Asia Pacific Art, the Perspectives:Asia series has become a cornerstone for public engagement on contemporary issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Designed to foster dialogue on culture, politics, and society, the seminars also promote deeper understanding of Australia's evolving relationships with its regional neighbours.

For two decades, Perspectives:Asia has featured an impressive range of speakers, offering fresh insights into topics spanning sport, cooking, fashion, art, and politics. Each session invites discussion on the dynamic interconnections between Australia and Asia, encouraging cultural appreciation and mutual awareness across disciplines.

The essence of the series, and part of its success, has been its ability to use any topic to spark debate about the broader issues that affect our societies. These issues often reflect shifts and changes in the wider political and socio-economic environment of the region. As we celebrate this milestone, we reflect on Perspectives:Asia's legacy of engaging conversations and look forward to continuing the dialogue that strengthens Australia's ties with Asia and the Pacific. We extend our thanks to all the speakers, attendees, and partners who have contributed to this series over the years. Join us in 2025 as we commemorate 20 years of Perspectives:Asia—a platform that continues to inform, challenge, and inspire.







## About QAGOMA

The Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) is Queensland's premier visual arts institution, housed in two architecturally distinct buildings on Brisbane's Kurilpa Point. QAGOMA presents a dynamic program of exhibitions spanning historical and contemporary Australian and international art, with a globally significant focus on Asia and the Pacific.

QAGOMA is also a leader in research through the Australian Centre of Asia Pacific Art (ACAPA), which fosters deeper engagement with Asian and Pacific art through exhibitions, discussions, publishing, and archiving. Central to this mission is the renowned Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT), established in 1993, which cements QAGOMA's role as a hub for contemporary regional art.

## About GAI

The Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) is a leading interdisciplinary research institute at Griffith University, dedicated to addressing key challenges and opportunities in Asia and the Pacific. Through research excellence, strategic partnerships, capacity building, and policy engagement, GAI fosters progress and regional leadership in sustainable development.

Our work spans sustainable economics, business and finance, governance, international relations, and inclusive rural development, tackling the complexities of a rapidly evolving Asia-Pacific. With a strong commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we drive initiatives that promote economic prosperity, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and good governance across the region.



# Foreword

As the current Directors of the Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) and the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), we are honoured to mark twenty years of Perspectives:Asia—a visionary collaboration between the Institute and the Gallery through its Australian Centre of Asia Pacific Art.

Since its inception in 2005, Perspectives:Asia has been a vital platform for engagement on the region's most pressing and thought-provoking issues. Over the years, this series has brought together artists, policymakers, journalists, academics, and community leaders to explore the political, societal, technological, and cultural developments shaping the Asia-Pacific. From conversations on climate politics in Oceania and China's global ambitions to deliberative democracy in the Philippines and the transformative power of art and sport, the series has inspired curiosity and deepened understanding.

We are deeply grateful to all the speakers and attendees whose participation has made Perspectives:Asia such a rich and dynamic forum. We also want to sincerely thank our partners and countless helping hands at QAGOMA and at GAI for their unwavering support and creativity, which have helped make this series not just enduring, but exceptional.

Importantly, we acknowledge the many hands and minds that have shaped this journey before us. We are just two of many directors privileged to carry forward this legacy of dialogue and discovery. Our heartfelt thanks go to our predecessors whose vision, care, and leadership have helped build the foundation on which we now stand.

Looking ahead, we are excited to grow Perspectives:Asia into an even more inclusive, provocative, artful, and invigorating platform—one that continues to moderate bold conversations, spark new insights, and celebrate the diversity of our region. In a world that can feel increasingly fragmented, spaces like this are more essential than ever.

Thank you for being part of the journey. We invite you to stay curious, stay engaged, and help us shape the next twenty years of Perspectives:Asia.



**Professor Christoph Nedopil**  
Director  
Griffith Asia Institute



**Chris Saines CNZM**  
Director  
Queensland Art Gallery |  
Gallery of Modern Art









# 2024



## Climate politics in Oceania

In a thought-provoking and insightful panel discussion, the launch of Climate Politics in Oceania: Renewing Australia-Pacific Relations in a Warming World sparked a crucial conversation on the urgent need for renewed climate leadership in the Oceania region. Held on 11 April, the event brought together prominent figures in academia and advocacy to address pressing issues surrounding climate change and diplomatic relations.

The panel featured Professor Susan Harris Rimmer and Dr Wesley Morgan as co-editors, alongside Associate Professor Tess Newton Cain as an author and Mary Maselina Harm as a respondent. Together, they provided compelling insights into the complex dynamics shaping Australia-Pacific relations amid the escalating climate crisis. Discussions highlighted the need for stronger policy commitments, enhanced regional cooperation, and greater recognition of Pacific voices in climate diplomacy. The event underscored the urgency of action and the responsibility of Australia to engage meaningfully with Pacific nations on climate justice.

## The importance of women's voices in conversations around conversation

29 February 2024

Panellists: Robyn James, Director of Gender and Equity, Asia Pacific, The Nature Conservancy; Madlyn Ero, Conservation Practitioner, Solomon Islands; and Dillie Maezama, Kawaki executive, Solomon Islands.

## Climate politics in Oceania

11 April 2024

Presented by Susan Harris Rimmer, Wesley Morgan, Tess Newton Cain and Mary Maselina Harm.

## How to get China right?

20 June 2024

Presented by Dr Ruan Zongze, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Brisbane.

## The 2024 National Defence Strategy

22 August 2024

Presented by Major General (Retired) Professor Adam Findlay AO.

## From Paris to Brisbane: The impact of the Games for the Asia-Pacific region

17 October 2024

Moderated by Dr Caroline Riot, Griffith University with panellists Leata Alaimoana, Queensland Trade Commissioner; Kerry Petersen: Chief Impact Officer, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee; Adrine Monagi, Athlete and Aspiring Business Professional; and Georgia-Leigh Vele, High-Performance Sports.

## Surviving the new Cold War as a middle power

9 March 2023

Presented by Dr Peter Lee, Research Fellow, United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney & Korea Foundation Research Fellow, Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne

## Putting the 'Indo' in the Pacific

25 May 2023

Presented by The Honourable Lise Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Australia India Institute, University of Melbourne.

## sis: Pacific Art 1980-2023

31 August 2023

Moderated by Ruth McDougall, Curator, Pacific Art, QAGOMA, with Artist panellists Jasmine Togo-Brisby, Rosanna Raymond & Salote Tawale.

## Can deliberation bridge divided publics? A hopeful story from the Philippines

28 September 2023

Professor Nicole Curato from the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra.

## Australia's pivot to India

9 November 2023

Presented by Dr Andrew Charlton, Federal Member of Parliament for Parramatta (ALP).

2023



## Can deliberation bridge divided publics? A hopeful story from the Philippines

Have social media users in the Philippines lost their free will to disinformation, or are they willingly complicit in spreading false narratives online? In this presentation, Professor Nicole Curato from the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra, provided a hopeful pathway to break free from narrow and damaging portrayals of social media users in a country often described as the "patient zero" of the global disinformation epidemic.

Drawing on a decade of academic research on democratic innovations in the Philippines, Nicole identified plausible projects that can transform the public sphere at a time of authoritarian nostalgia, impunity, influence operations, and information disorder.

# 2022



## How Australia can harness the power of sport for good at home and across the region

On 2 June 2022, the Perspectives:Asia lecture series featured Stephanie Brantz, freelance media professional, and Nikki Dryden, former Olympic athlete and human rights lawyer, in a discussion on sport's role in advancing human rights.

With Australia set to host several Mega Sporting Events in the next decade, the speakers highlighted the nation's opportunity to lead in sports diplomacy and human rights. While individual Australians have been global human rights advocates, Australia as a nation has yet to take a leadership role in this space.

The discussion emphasised the need for international collaboration and a deeper understanding of human rights to harness sport as a tool for social change in the region. By building on its sporting legacy, Australia could shape a global agenda at the intersection of sport and human rights, strengthening communities across the Asia-Pacific.

## Crossed wires: Australian foreign policy and public opinion

10 February 2022 (Online via zoom)

Presented by Natasha Kassam, Director, Lowy Institute's Public Opinion and Foreign Policy Program.

## Asian girls are going places

7 April 2022

Moderated by Dr Sally Breen, Griffith University, with panellists Michelle Law, writer of print, film and television, and theatre, Yen-Rong Wong, Art critic and writer.

## How Australia can harness the power of sport for good at home and across the region

2 June 2022

In conversation with Stephanie Brantz, Freelance media professional, and Nikki Dryden, Former Olympic athlete and human rights lawyer.

## Daring to struggle: China's global ambitions under Xi Jinping

11 August 2022

Presented by Dr Bates Gill, Chair, Department of Security Studies and Criminology, Macquarie University.

## The pen and the sword: fighting and talking in an age of strategic competition and curtailed press freedom

6 October 2022

Presented by Siobhan Heanue, Former foreign correspondent for ABC News.

## 4 Stories | Work exploring issues of trust, intimacy, and self-awareness

24 November 2022

Presented by Lee Mingwei, contemporary artist.



## Asian-Australians: Enabling and elevating Australia's competitive advantage to succeed in Asia

13 May 2021

Presented by Jieh-Yung Lo, Founding Director, Centre for Asian-Australian Leadership, Australian National University.

## The future of the Australia-Aotearoa New Zealand bilateral relationship in a contested era

3 June 2021

Presented by Dr Anna Powles, Massey University.

## What happened in Wuhan?

22 July 2021 (Online via zoom)

Presented by Chris Buckley, China correspondent for the New York Times.

## Reimagining Japan-Australia relations for a post-Covid world – a strengthening of the special strategic partnership

16 September 2021 (Online via zoom)

Presented by His Excellency Shingo Yamagami, Ambassador of Japan to Australia.

## Air Canoe: Connecting Northern Oceania

9 December 2021 (Online via zoom)

Moderated by Stefan Armbruster, with panellists Ruha Fifita, Co-founder of the Pacific art research collective - IVI, Emelihter Kihleng, Curatorial Research Fellow, Oceania at MARKK Museum am Rothenbaum, Germany, Professor Katerina Teaiwa, Professor in Pacific studies and Deputy Director - Higher Degree Research Training, Australian National University.



## What happened in Wuhan?

Moderated by Professor Caitlin Byrne, the 22 July Perspectives:Asia lecture featured Chris Buckley, China correspondent for The New York Times, in an online discussion reflecting on China's handling of the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan.

Chris shared insights from his five months in Wuhan, including two and a half months under lockdown, providing a first-hand account of the Chinese government's response to the crisis. He examined how authorities managed the outbreak and the broader social and political implications of the world's first COVID-19 lockdown.

Having spent 24 years in China as a journalist, Buckley also discussed his reporting on China's political landscape and human rights issues, including the crackdown in Xinjiang. Now based in Sydney after being forced to leave China, he was among the New York Times journalists whose work won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 2021.



# 2020



## Role of press freedom as a pillar for democracy

An online discussion on the state of global press freedom featured Stefan Armbruster (SBS World News), Marites Danguilan Vitug (Rappler) and Professor Peter Greste (University of Queensland), and Scott Waide (EMTV News).

The panel explored the increasing restrictions on media freedom worldwide, highlighting the politically motivated conviction of Rappler journalists Maria Ressa and Reynaldo Santos Jr. in the Philippines. The discussion underscored how press suppression, once limited to authoritarian regimes, is now spreading to established democracies, threatening journalistic integrity, public trust, and democratic institutions.

Each speaker shared their experiences in journalism, reflecting on media challenges in Australia, the Pacific, and Southeast Asia. With press freedom at historic lows, the conversation emphasised the urgent need to safeguard independent journalism as a cornerstone of democracy. The event was chaired by Stefan Armbruster, an Industry Fellow at the Griffith Asia Institute.

## Restraining great powers | Soft balancing from empires to the global era

27 February 2020 (Online via zoom)

Presented by Professor TV Paul, James McGill Professor of International Relations, McGill University.

## Stranded nation

28 May 2020 (Online via zoom)

Presented by Professor David Walker, Deakin University and Profess Jing Han, Western Sydney University.

## Role of press freedom as a pillar for democracy

16 July 2020 (Online via zoom)

Presented by Stefan Armbruster, SBS World News and Griffith Asia Institute, Marites Danguilan Vitug, Rappler, Professor Peter Greste, University of Queensland, Scott Waide, EMTV news

## You can't paint the Pacific with just one brush

10 September 2020 (Online via zoom)

Moderated by Andrew Fa'avale, MANA Pasifika chair, with panellists Iree Chow, President of the Pasifika Women's Alliance, Timothy Harm, Creative Producer for Conscious Mic, Augusta Lokea, Vice President of the Brisbane Bougainville Community, and Megan Talvat, community member.

## Thailand in protest

24 November 2020 (Online via zoom)

Moderated by Tamerlaine Beasley, Managing Director and Founder of Beasley Intercultural, with panellists Dr Pandit Chanrochanakit, Assistant Professor at Department of Government, Chulalongkorn University, Gridthiya Gawee Wong, Artistic Director of the Jim Thompson Art Centre, Matt Wheeler, Senior Analyst, South East Asia for the Crisis group in Bangkok.



## As China rises, can its culture conquer the world?

21 February 2019

Presented by Linda Jaivin, Australian Author, Translator of Chinese Films and Visiting Fellow, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific.

## Mangoro market meri: Women guardians of the mangroves in PNG

28 March 2019

Presented by Barbara Masike-Liri, PNG Country Director, and Robyn James, Director Conservation, Melanesia, The Nature Conservancy.

## Japan: From Heisei to Reiwa

30 May 2019

Presented by former Australian Ambassador to Japan, Bruce Miller AO.



## Japan: From Heisei to Reiwa

On 30 May 2019, former Australian Ambassador to Japan, Bruce Miller AO, delivered a Perspectives:Asia lecture reflecting on Japan's imperial transition from the Heisei to Reiwa era.

Miller highlighted Japan's continuity in imperial tradition, noting that while Emperor Akihito's abdication was historically significant, the transition did not bring major political changes. He discussed the Emperor's constitutional and religious roles, as well as the Imperial Family's cultural and humanitarian contributions, particularly in times of crisis, such as the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Looking ahead, Miller examined Japan's economic and strategic challenges, including trade liberalisation, demographic shifts, and regional security threats. He also emphasised the country's enduring social stability, low crime rates, and world-renowned service culture.

With deep expertise in Japanese history and policy, Miller provided valuable insights into Japan's future trajectory in the Reiwa era within an evolving geopolitical landscape.

## Fair go, mate: The changing language and practice of Australian values diplomacy in times of uncertainty and risk

4 July 2019

Presented by Professor Emeritus John Fitzgerald, Centre for Social Impact, Swinburne University of Technology.

## Women's movements in the Philippines

29 August 2019

Presented by Professor Mina Roces, School of Humanities and Languages, UNSW.

## State of play in cyber-space: risks and implications of struggles for power in cyberspace

19 September 2019

In-conversation with Mr Fergus Hanson and Dr Samantha Hoffman, Cyber Policy Centre, ASPI.

## Bold, simple or dumb: Australia's economic engagement with Asia

14 November 2019

Presented by Dr Stephanie Fahey, CEO, Australian Investment and Trade Commission.



# 2018



## Blood and silk: Power and conflict in modern Southeast Asia

15 March 2018

Michael Vatikiotis

In this seminar, Michael Vatikiotis, discusses his book *Blood and Silk: Power and Conflict in Modern Southeast Asia*. As a writer, journalist, and diplomat with over 30 years of experience in the region, Vatikiotis offered a compelling analysis of the power struggles and conflicts shaping Southeast Asia today.

Drawing from his direct involvement in peace negotiations, he examined the deep-rooted issues of corruption, insurgency, and religious division in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and the Philippines. He also explored China's expanding influence and its impact on regional stability. Peering beyond modern skyscrapers and economic progress, Vatikiotis painted a vivid portrait of the personalities and forces that drive political and social tensions. His insights provided an engaging and thought-provoking look at one of the world's most dynamic and complex regions.

## Blood and silk: Power and conflict in modern Southeast Asia

15 March 2018

Presented by Michael Vatikiotis, Asia Regional Director, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Singapore.

## Commonwealth now

11 April 2018

In conversation chaired by Jane Camens, Co-editor, Griffith Review 59: Commonwealth Now with renowned writers Salil Tripathi and Annie Zaidi.

## The future of Chinese leadership in the global economy

17 May 2018

Presented by Professor Cameron Thies, Director of the School of Politics and Global Studies, Arizona State University and President-Elect, International Studies Association.

## Asia's reckoning: The rise of China in Asia, America and Australia

23 August 2018

Presented by Mr Richard McGregor, Senior Fellow for East Asia, Lowy Institute.

## Referenda on independence in New Caledonia and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville

6 September 2018

Presented by Ms Denise Fisher, former Australian Consul-General to Noumea, New Caledonia, Professor Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh, Professor of Politics and Public Policy, Griffith University, Mr Anthony Regan, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific and Mr Emmanuel Thuay Tjibaou, Director, Agency for Kanak Cultural Development – Centre Culturel Tjibaou.

## In search of safe ground in the Pacific

6 December 2018

Presented by John Rodsted, Adjunct Professor, QCA, photographer, author and film maker.

## India's disappearing railways

16 February 2017

Presented by Catherine Anderson, writer and founder of The Angus McDonald Trust.

## Strengthening Japan-Australia relations at a time of international uncertainty

27 March 2017

Presented by His Excellency Ambassador of Japan to Australia Mr Sumio Kusaka.

## Perspectives on China-US cooperation in climate change negotiations

20 April 2017

Presented by Margaret M Pearson, Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland, College Park.

## The Phoenix Years: Art, resistance and the making of modern China

15 June 2017

Presented by Madeleine O'Dea, Writer and Journalist.

## Australian values in a time of disruption

3 August 2017

Presented by Senator The Hon. Penny Wong, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Labor Senator for South Australia.

## Australian sports diplomacy in the Pacific

14 September 2017

Presented by, Aaron Alsop, Director, High Performance Sport, PNG Sports Foundation', Amelia Kuk, Former Rugby 7's player, Andrew Minogue, CEO, the Pacific Games Council and Timothy Walsh, Coach, Women's Rugby 7's Team.

## Archipelagoes of amnesia: Empire, environment, and representation in the Marshall Islands

30 November 2017

Presented by Associate Professor Greg Dvorak, International Cultural Studies, Waseda University, Tokyo.

# 2017



## Australian sports diplomacy in the Pacific

14 September 2017

Aaron Alsop, Amelia Kuk, Andrew Minogue and Timothy Walsh

On 14 September 2017, the Perspectives:Asia seminar explored the role of sport in diplomacy. Moderated by Professor Caitlin Byrne. The discussion examined how sport and athletes can enhance diplomatic outcomes, strengthen people-to-people connections, and promote cultural, trade, education, and tourism opportunities.

The seminar featured insights from Aaron Alsop, Director of High Performance Sport at the PNG Sports Foundation; Amelia Kuk, a former Rugby 7s player; Andrew Minogue, Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Games Council; and Timothy Walsh, coach of Australia's first Women's Rugby 7s Team. Drawing from their professional and personal experiences in Australia and the Pacific, the speakers highlighted sport's unique ability to bridge cultural divides, foster international engagement, and showcase Australia's identity, values, and influence in the region. The discussion reinforced the growing role of sports diplomacy in strengthening Australia's regional partnerships.



# 2016



## Empowering women: Advocacy through art

On 15 August 2016, the Perspectives:Asia lecture series featured Empowering Women: Advocacy through Art, presented by Her Excellency Mrs Naela Chohan, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Australia. The event highlighted the intersection of art, diplomacy, and advocacy in promoting women's empowerment across Australia, Pakistan, and the broader region.

Mrs Chohan shared insights into how her dual roles as an artist and a diplomat enabled her to engage communities and foster dialogue on gender equality. She discussed the power of artistic expression in amplifying women's voices, raising awareness of their struggles, and celebrating their achievements. Through her artwork and diplomatic initiatives, she sought to challenge societal norms and advocate for greater opportunities for women.

The lecture provided a compelling exploration of how cultural diplomacy and the arts can serve as powerful tools in advancing social change, strengthening cross-cultural understanding, and promoting gender equity on a global scale.

## Democracy, meritocracy, or both? The case of China

30 March 2016

Presented by Professor Daniel A Bell, Chair Professor of the Schwarzman Scholar Program at Tsinghua University in Beijing and Director of the Berggruen Institute of Philosophy and Culture.

## Insights Indonesia

28 April 2016

Presented by George Roberts, Journalist, ABC News Queensland.

## Women, Peace and Security in Asia

23 June 2016

Presented by Kamala Chandrakirana, an Indonesian advocate of human rights, justice and democracy and Associate Professor Susan Harris-Rimmer, Griffith Law School.

## Empowering women: Advocacy through art

15 August 2016

Presented by Her Excellency Mrs Naela Chohan, High Commissioner, High Commission of Pakistan in Australia.

## Popular culture and the representation of Asian-Australia

22 September 2016

Presented by Tony Ayres, award-winning writer and director working across film and television, Mandy Chang, Head of Arts, ABC TV, Michelle Law, writer and screenwriter.

## Imaging the Asia Pacific: contemporary documentaries from the region

19 February 2015

Presented by David Bridie, Charlie Hill-Smith, Chartchai Ketnust (Nat), Gemma Tamock and Tim Schultz.

### 'Preposterous caricatures': Why is the Australia Indonesia relationship so difficult?

19 May 2015

Presented by Professor Tim Lindsey, Malcolm Smith Professor of Asian Law and Director of the Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society at the Melbourne Law School.

### 45 years on and looking forward

6 August 2015

Presented by Mr David Irvine AO, Chair, Foreign Investment Review Board.

### New Asia now

2 September 2015

Presented with Griffith Review as part of the Brisbane Writers Festival featuring Murong Xuecun, Joshua Ip and Maggie Tiojakin.

### Advocacy and Asian art

1 October 2015

Presented by Dr John Yu AC, Former Australian of the Year, Paediatrician and expert on the decorative arts of Southeast Asia.

### Life as a weapon: Do suicide bombings really make sense?

5 November 2015

Presented by Professor Riaz Hassan AM, Director of the International Centre for Muslim and non-Muslim Understanding, University of South Australia.

# 2015



### 'Preposterous caricatures': Why is the Australia Indonesia relationship so difficult?

On 19 May 2015, Professor Tim Lindsey delivered a compelling Perspectives:Asia lecture titled 'Preposterous Caricatures': Why is the Australia-Indonesia Relationship So Difficult? The event explored the complexities of the bilateral relationship between Australia and Indonesia, highlighting the significant differences in language, culture, history, ethnicity, and religion that shape their interactions.

Professor Lindsey examined how mutual misunderstandings and entrenched stereotypes—what former Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono termed "preposterous caricatures"—continue to strain diplomatic ties. He discussed the persistent lack of awareness among Australians and Indonesians about one another, compounded by a decline in "Indonesia literacy" in Australia. He also addressed Indonesia's growing economic influence and its aspirations for a greater regional role, presenting new challenges for Australia.

Drawing on historical and recent bilateral crises, Professor Lindsey provided an insightful analysis of the evolving dynamics between the two nations, underscoring the need for deeper engagement and mutual understanding.



# 2014



## Report of the Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 1 May 2014, the Perspectives:Asia seminar featured The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, who led the United Nations Commission of Inquiry into human rights abuses in North Korea. The report, released in February 2014, exposed severe violations, including forced labour camps, systemic repression, and political persecution.

Justice Kirby discussed the historical context of North Korea's unique political system and the challenges of Korean reunification. He highlighted the Commission's innovative methodology, which relied on public hearings and testimonies from North Korean escapees.

A former High Court Justice, Kirby is widely recognised for his contributions to social justice and international human rights. Since retiring in 2009, he has remained active in global human rights initiatives, receiving numerous accolades, including the Gruber Prize for Justice. His work continues to shape international legal responses to human rights violations.

## The Rise of Xi Jinping and Destruction of Bo Xilai

27 February 2014

Presented by Mr John Garnaut, Author and former China correspondent for The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age.

## Lon Marum

13 March 2014

Documentary screening with Mr Thomas Dick, Producer and Mr Marcel Meltherorong, Score Composer.

## Report of the Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

1 May 2014

Presented by The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG.

## Retrospective: The regional political and economic relationship

24 July 2014

Presented by Professor Colin Brown, Adjunct Professor, Griffith Asia Institute, Professor Rikki Kersten, Dean, School of Arts, Murdoch University, Professor Richard Rigby, Executive Director, ANU China Institute, chaired by Professor Michael Wesley, Director, School of International, Political and Strategic Studies, ANU.

## Retrospective Australia and Asia: The cultural relationship

11 September 2014

Presented by Ms Linda Jaivin, internationally published author, Professor Julia Howell, Adjunct Professor, Griffith Asia Institute and Reuben Keehan, Curator, Contemporary Asian Art, QAGOMA.

## Asian perspective: The World Bank's role in East Asia

20 February 2013

Presented by Jim Adams, former World Bank  
Vice President for East Asia.

## Papua New Guinea in transition: What it means for Australia

28 March 2013

Presented by Mr Ian Kemish AM,  
Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea.

## India large and small

16 May 2013

Presented by Ms Shubha Mughal (Khyal singer), Dr Anupama  
Kundoo (Senior Lecturer, School of Architecture, UQ) and  
Mr Anupam Sharma (Director, Films and Casting).

## China's rise, America's pivot, and Japan's choice for peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region

13 June 2013

Presented by Lt General Noboru Yamaguchi,  
Professor and Director for International Programs,  
National Defence Academy, Japan.

## Blackbirding, South Sea Islanders and seasonal workers: Historical memory and contemporary justice across the Pacific

16 August 2013

The Hon. Ralph Regenvanuand,  
Sean Dorney and Nic Maclellan.

## Is China's rise inevitable? What might go wrong?

27 August 2013

Presented by Martin Jacques, globally renowned  
Public Intellectual and Economist.

## When giants dance: China and Indonesia step out together - implications for Australia, Asia and the world

7 November 2013

Presented by Steve Howard,  
Secretary General, The Global Foundation.

# 2013



## Blackbirding, South Sea Islanders and seasonal workers: Historical memory and contemporary justice across the Pacific

On 16 August 2013, the Perspectives:Asia seminar explored the legacy of blackbirding and its ongoing impact on Pacific communities. The event featured The Hon Ralph Regenvanu MP, Minister for Lands, Geology and Mines in Vanuatu, and journalist Nic Maclellan, with veteran Pacific correspondent Sean Dorney as chair.

Marking 150 years since the colonial labour trade began, the discussion examined how over 60,000 Melanesians were brought—often through coercion—to work in Australian industries like sugar and cotton between 1863 and 1904. Many were later deported under the White Australia Policy, while others remained in Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Today, Australian South Sea Islanders (ASSI) are reclaiming their history and forging connections with communities in Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and the Solomon Islands, ensuring that their ancestors' stories are remembered and their rights recognised.



# 2012



## Queensland and China in the 40th anniversary year of the Australia-China relationship

On 8 November 2012, Her Excellency Ms Frances Adamson, Australian Ambassador to China reflected on four decades of Australia-China diplomatic relations. Drawing on her extensive experience, Ms Adamson discussed the evolution of bilateral ties, from early economic reforms to contemporary trade, business, and diplomatic engagements.

With a diplomatic career spanning over 27 years, including extensive work on China-related matters, Ms Adamson shared insights into Queensland's role in strengthening Australia-China relations. She highlighted opportunities for deeper collaboration in trade, education, and cultural exchange, emphasising the importance of continued engagement.

Having served in key postings across Beijing, Hong Kong, Taipei, and London, Ms Adamson brought a wealth of experience to the discussion. As a fluent Mandarin speaker and a patron of several Australia-China organisations, she underscored the enduring significance of the relationship and its potential for future growth.

## Contemporary Japanese fashion design: Where art meets fashion

8 March 2012

Presented by Bonnie English, Associate Professor, Department of Art Theory, Queensland College of Art, Griffith University.

## Grand stakes: Australia's future between China and India

3 May 2012

Presented by Rory Medcalf, Director, International Security Program, The Lowy Institute for International Policy.

## From Bahasa to Hangul: Deciphering modern Asia

12 July 2012

Presented by Greg Earl, Asia Pacific Editor, Australian Financial Review.

## Burma watching

13 September 2012

Presented by Dr Andrew Selth, Adjunct Research Fellow, Griffith Asia Institute.

## The other Asian miracle? The responsibility to protect and the ending of mass atrocities

18 October 2012

Presented by Professor Alex Bellamy, Director and Professor of International Security at the Human Protection Hub, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University.

## Queensland and China in the 40th anniversary year of the Australia-China relationship

8 November 2012

Her Excellency Ms Frances Adamson

## The China-Australia relationship

5 May 2011

Presented by Dr Geoff Raby,  
Australian Ambassador to China.

## The rise in popularity of Asian cooking and TV chefs

14 July 2011

Presented by Elizabeth Chong,  
Celebrity chef and author of  
'The Heritage of Chinese Cooking'.

## Australia-Japan Annual Dialogue: Australia and Japan in an era of dynamic change – strategic partners for the long term

22 September 2011

Presented by Mr Murray McLean OAM,  
Former Australian Ambassador to Japan.

## Australia-Asia relations

20 October 2011

Presented by The Hon Julie Bishop MP,  
Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.

## Australian Engagement with Asia: A Patriotic Perspective

10 November 2011

Presented by Dr Tim Southphommasane,  
Political theorist/philosopher and commentator.

2011



## Australia-Asia relations

On 20 October 2011, The Hon Julie Bishop MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, delivered a Perspectives:Asia lecture on Australia-Asia Relations.

In her address, Ms Bishop examined Australia's evolving relationships with key Asian nations, emphasising the region's growing economic and strategic importance. She highlighted the necessity of strong diplomatic engagement, trade partnerships, and cultural exchange to secure Australia's place in an increasingly interconnected Asia-Pacific.

Ms Bishop also discussed the challenges and opportunities presented by Asia's rapid economic growth, including Australia's role in fostering regional stability and cooperation. She underscored the importance of deepening ties with major economies such as China, India, Japan, and ASEAN nations while maintaining strong alliances with traditional partners.

Her speech reinforced the view that Australia's future prosperity is closely linked to Asia, advocating for policies that support economic integration, security collaboration, and mutual understanding between Australia and its regional neighbours.



# 2010



## Australia-Japan relations: The current state of the relationship – existing and future challenges

On 27 October 2010, a Perspectives:Asia event featured a discussion on Australia-Japan Relations: The Current State of the Relationship – Existing and Future Challenges, jointly presented by His Excellency Mr Shigekazu Sato, Japanese Ambassador to Australia, and The Hon Alexander Downer.

Ambassador Sato provided a historical overview of Australia-Japan relations, highlighting Queensland's early role in forging ties, from Japanese migration in the 19th century to labour contributions in the pearling and sugar industries. He reflected on post-war economic cooperation, including the 1957 Japan-Australia Commerce Agreement, which underpinned decades of strong trade relations.

Acknowledging the rise of China as Australia's largest trading partner, Ambassador Sato emphasised Japan's ongoing significance, particularly for Queensland. He also discussed regional security concerns, including China's increasing assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific. The lecture underscored the need for continued bilateral cooperation on economic, strategic, and environmental issues to ensure stability and prosperity in the region.

## The scale of change: A new atlas for Indian art

4 March 2010

Presented by Ranjit Hoskote, poet, cultural theorist and independent curator, India.

## Investigation of life: Ethnological turn in post-war Japanese art

25 March 2010

Presented by Fumihiko Sumitomo, Independent curator/Arts Initiative Tokyo and ACAPA/Australia Council Visiting Curator.

## Australia's place in the world

29 July 2010

Presented by Professor Michael Wesley, Executive Director, The Lowy Institute for International Policy and Adjunct Professor, Griffith University.

## Korea and Australia: Middle power cooperation

5 August 2010

Presented by His Excellency Professor Kim Woo-Sang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Republic of Korea.

## National pudding and Indigenous salad

26 August 2010

Presented by Pushpamala N, photographer and curator.

## Islam and democracy in Indonesia's foreign policy: Political transformation and the limits of change

1 September 2010

Presented by Dr Rizal Sukma, Executive Director, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia.

## Australia-Japan relations: The current state of the relationship – existing and future challenges

27 October 2010

His Excellency Mr Shigekazu Sato and The Hon Mr Alexander Downer.

## The life of art: Contemporary representations from Iran and the Arab world

19 February 2009

Presented by Rose Issa, Independent curator, writer and producer on visual arts and films from the Middle East and North Africa.

## The opening door: Contemporary Chinese art since 1978

2 April 2009

Presented by Dr Claire Roberts, Senior Curator, Asian Arts and Design, Powerhouse Museum.

## If China grows: Australia's options in Beijing's century

11 June 2009

Presented by Professor Hugh White, Strategic studies, Australian National University and Visiting Fellow at The Lowy Institute for International Policy.

## The Old Silk Road in China today: The fate of Xinjiang

23 July 2009

Presented by Professor Mark C Elliott, Mark Schwartz Professor, Chinese and Inner Asian History, Harvard University.

## The Asia-Pacific century

14 August 2009

Presented by The Honourable Stephen Smith MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Deputy Leader of the House.

2009



## The Asia-Pacific century

On 14 August 2009, The Honourable Stephen Smith MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Leader of the House, delivered a Perspectives:Asia lecture on The Asia-Pacific century.

Minister Smith discussed Australia's deepening engagement with the Asia-Pacific, emphasising the importance of strong bilateral relationships and regional cooperation. He outlined Australia's role in fostering economic and security partnerships within the region, highlighting the significance of organisations such as ASEAN, APEC, and the East Asia Summit in promoting stability and prosperity.

The lecture also explored Australia's vision for an Asia-Pacific community, reflecting on the challenges and opportunities presented by the region's economic rise and shifting strategic landscape. Minister Smith reinforced the need for active diplomacy, trade partnerships, and cultural exchange to strengthen Australia's position in the Asia-Pacific.

His address underscored the government's commitment to ensuring that Australia remains a key player in shaping the future of the region, recognising the Asia-Pacific as central to the nation's economic and strategic interests in the 21st century.



# 2008



## Swamped by Asians – Asian immigrants, cuisine and culture in post-multicultural Australia

On 11 September 2008, author and Sydney restaurateur Pauline Nguyen delivered a powerful and deeply personal Perspectives:Asia lecture titled Swamped by Asians – Asian immigrants, cuisine and culture in post-multicultural Australia.

Nguyen shared her journey as a refugee arriving in Australia by boat, highlighting the profound challenges of adapting to a new culture and the impact on family relationships. Through her storytelling, she explored the complexities of identity, belonging, and resilience in a changing Australia.

Her presentation was both poignant and emotional, offering an authentic perspective on the struggles and triumphs of Asian immigrants. By weaving personal experiences with broader reflections on multiculturalism, cuisine, and cultural integration, Nguyen provided an insightful and moving exploration of post-multicultural Australia.

## India and Australia – The battle for world cricket

6 March 2008

Presented by Peter Roebuck, Sydney Morning Herald.

## Asian cuisine and Australian society

22 May 2008

Presented by Kylie Kwong, chef, restaurateur, television presenter and author.

## Pakistan's regional security perspective

26 June 2008

Presented by His Excellency Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani, High Commissioner for Pakistan.

## Swamped by Asians – Asian immigrants, cuisine and culture in post-multicultural Australia

11 September 2008

Presented by Pauline Nguyen, award-winning Australian author and restaurateur.

## China: The next chapter

20 November 2008

Presented by Rowan Callick OBE, China correspondent, The Australian.

## The elephant in the region: Challenge and change in Australian media coverage of China's ascendancy

7 June 2007

Presented by Catherine Armitage, Higher Education Editor, The Australian 2006.

## Travellers' tales: Australian tourism in Asia and the impact on the Australian psyche

1 August 2007

Presented by Tony Wheeler, Founder, Lonely Planet Guide.

## While we weren't looking: The new Asia and how it challenges Australia

6 September 2007

Presented by Professor Stephen FitzGerald AO, Principal, FitzGerald Consulting.

## Is India the next China?

4 October 2007

Presented by John Harrison, Project Manager Asia Pacific, Adidas Group.

## In the Neighbourhood: The challenges of Australia's regional engagement

1 November 2007

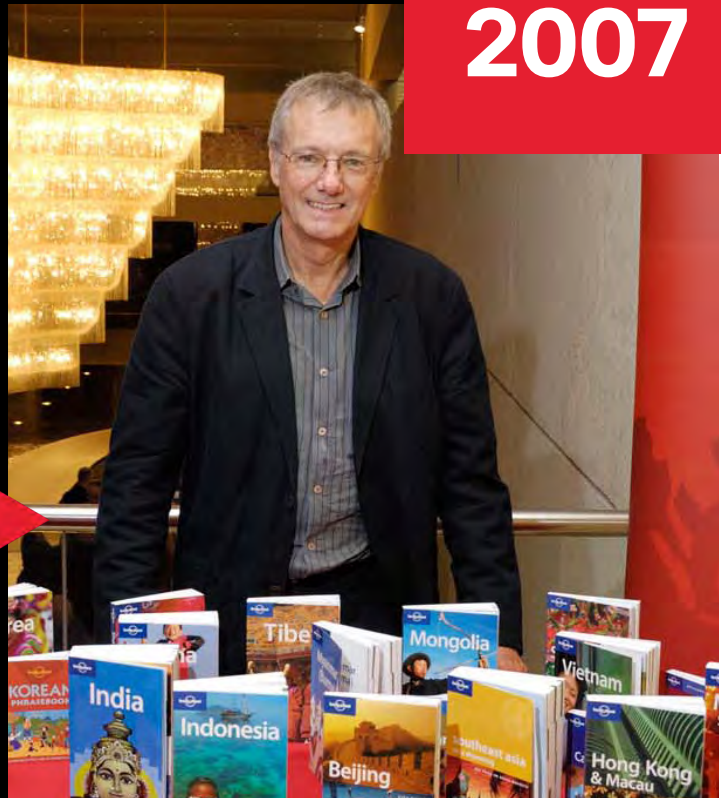
Presented by Julianne Schultz, Professor Nicholas Jose, Professor Michael Wesley and Jane Camens.

## Shock, horror – drongo Oz journo runs amok in Asia! How the Australian media assesses the importance of Asian news

6 December 2007

Presented by Graeme Dobell, Foreign Affairs and Defence correspondent, Radio Australia.

2007



## Travellers' tales: Australian tourism in Asia and the impact on the Australian psyche

On 1 August 2007, Perspectives:Asia featured a compelling lecture by Tony Wheeler, founder of Lonely Planet. Addressing a full audience, Wheeler captivated attendees with his insightful reflections on Australian tourism in Asia and its influence on the national psyche. Drawing from decades of travel experience, he explored how Australians' increasing engagement with Asia—through backpacking adventures, business trips, and cultural exchanges—had shaped perceptions of the region and, in turn, Australia's own identity.

Wheeler shared anecdotes from his extensive travels, highlighting the evolving relationship between Australian travellers and Asian destinations. He discussed the transformative power of travel in fostering cross-cultural understanding and challenging stereotypes. The audience responded enthusiastically to his engaging storytelling and deep knowledge of the region. The event reinforced the importance of travel as a bridge between cultures and underscored Australia's growing connection with its Asian neighbours, leaving attendees with a greater appreciation for the role of tourism in shaping global perspectives.



# 2006



## Papua New Guinea and Australia: The way forward

On 18 May, the Right Honourable Sir Rabbie Namaliu, CSM, KCMG, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Papua New Guinea, delivered a Perspectives:Asia lecture on *Papua New Guinea and Australia: The way forward*. The discussion examined the evolving relationship between the two nations and the opportunities for deeper cooperation.

Sir Rabbie provided insights into the historical ties between Papua New Guinea and Australia, acknowledging the challenges and achievements that have shaped bilateral relations. He emphasised the need for greater collaboration in areas such as trade, governance, and regional security, highlighting the mutual benefits of a strengthened partnership.

Addressing contemporary issues, Sir Rabbie outlined key priorities for Papua New Guinea's development and the role Australia could play as a strategic partner. The lecture underscored the importance of fostering closer ties through diplomacy, economic engagement, and people-to-people connections, offering a vision for a more dynamic and sustainable relationship.

## The Bridge: Asia literacy in Australian schools

23 February 2006

Presented by Carrillo Gantner AO, President, The Myer Foundation.

## Political cartoons in Indonesian–Australian relations

27 April 2006

Presented by Associate Professor David Reeve, University of New South Wales.

## Papua New Guinea and Australia: The way forward

18 May 2006

Presented by the Right Honourable Sir Rabbie Namaliu, CSM, KCMG, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Papua New Guinea.

## AIDS: Asia Pacific's Time Bomb

27 July 2006

Presented by Annmaree O'Keeffe, Australia's Ambassador for HIV/AIDS, Deputy Director General, Australian Agency for International Development, Global Programs.

## Changing India

5 October 2006

Presented by His Excellency Mr Prabhat Prakash Shukla, High Commissioner, India.

## Cosmopolitan Shanghai: Cinema City and China's Greta Garbo

24 November 2006

Presented by Yingjin Zhang, Professor of Chinese Literature and Film, University of California, San Diego.

## The role of culture in Australia–Asia relations

21 July 2005

Presented by Professor Michael Wesley,  
Director, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith  
University and Doug Hall AM, Director,  
Queensland Art Gallery.

Inaugural  
Perspectives:Asia  
Lecture

2005

## Tsunami: Eight months on

18 August 2005

Jointly presented by, Dr Robert Glasser, CEO,  
Care Australia and Professor Sharon Bell,  
Pro Vice Chancellor, Equity & Community  
Partnerships, Griffith University.

## Jemaah Islamiyah, democracy, and Indonesia's future

22 September 2005

Presented by Professor Greg Fealy,  
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies,  
Australian National University.

## The evolution of Indonesia's perception of Australia

13 October 2005

Presented by Rendra,  
Indonesian poet and dramatist.

## Our Melanesian neighbours

17 November 2005

Presented by Sean Dorney,  
Pacific correspondent,  
Australian Broadcasting Corporation.



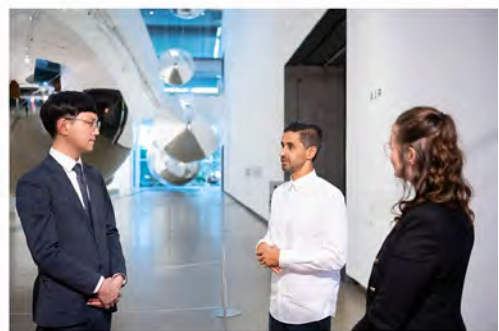
## The role of culture in Australia–Asia relations

On 21 July, Professor Michael Wesley, Director of the Griffith Asia Institute, and Doug Hall AM, Director of the Queensland Art Gallery, delivered the inaugural Perspectives:Asia lecture on The Role of Culture in Australia–Asia Relations. The discussion explored how cultural exchange serves as a vital bridge in fostering deeper engagement between Australia and its Asian neighbours.

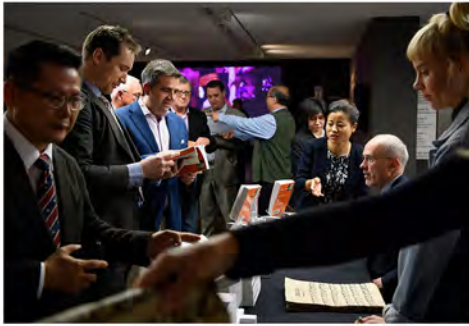
Professor Wesley examined the broader geopolitical and societal dimensions of cultural diplomacy, highlighting how shared artistic and intellectual traditions can enhance mutual understanding. Doug Hall provided insights from his experience in the arts sector, discussing the role of galleries, exhibitions, and cultural institutions in strengthening people-to-people connections.

The speakers emphasised that cultural engagement goes beyond soft diplomacy, shaping perceptions, identities, and long-term relationships. They underscored the need for sustained investment in cultural initiatives to promote meaningful dialogue and collaboration between Australia and Asia. The lecture offered a thought-provoking perspective on the transformative power of culture in international relations.













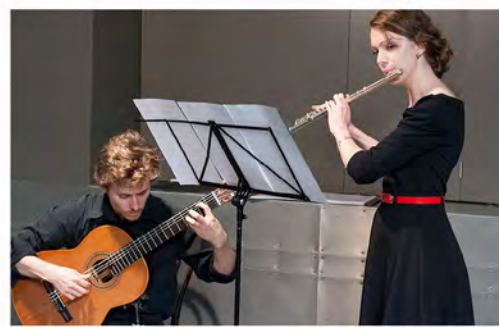














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The Australian Centre of Asia Pacific Art (ACAPA) is the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art's Asian and Pacific research and publishing arm.

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