Organisational Ecology and Economic Transition in China
Associate Professor Jane Lu, National University of Singapore
Co-Hosted by the China Studies Centre and the Business School, University of Sydney

Associate Professor Jane Lu examines the economic transition from planned economy to market economy in China from an organisational ecology perspective. She depicts the Chinese domestic economy as mainly comprising three organisational populations: state-owned enterprises (SOEs), collectively owned enterprises (COEs), and privately owned enterprises (POEs). She conceptualizes economic transition as a population level change from an old organisation form (SOE), through a transitional or hybrid form (COE), to a new form (POE).

Her main theoretical argument is that when a new organisational form runs counter to the prevailing institutional codes and norms represented by the old, dominant form, a transitional or hybrid form that share identities with the old form and the new form respectively can transfer legitimacy to the new form. Thus the transitional form plays a pivotal role in the transition from the old form to the new form, providing legitimation and support for the latter.

Jane Lu is an associate professor in NUS Business School, National University of Singapore. She received her Ph.D. from the Richard Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario in 2001. Her research centers on international strategy such as FDI location choice, entry mode choice and alliance partner selection.

When: Thursday 22nd March, 12noon - 1:30pm
Where: China Studies Centre Boardroom, Room 310, Old Teachers College, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE
RSVP: RSVP’s are essential due to limited space - csc.events@sydney.edu.au

Government and International Relations Colloquium Series
University of Sydney

The Department of Government and International Relations Colloquium Series aims to showcase recent research by members of the Department, visiting scholars and international and interstate guests in an informal setting, conducive to lively debate. It is an open event and everyone is welcome to attend.

Thursday 22nd March 2012

Government Responses to Fiscal Austerity: The Effect of Institutional Fragmentation and Partisanship
Dr. Carsten Jensen, Aarhus University

How does the institutional context affect government responses to fiscal austerity? Despite the ‘institutional turn’ in political science, we still possess an incomplete understanding of the relationship between a core aspect of the institutional setting of countries – namely institutional fragmentation – and the policy consequences of fiscal pressure.

This talk advances research on this question by integrating theories of the blame avoidance effect of institutional fragmentation with theories of the effect of party constituencies on social policies. The result is a set of novel hypotheses about the conditional effects of institutional fragmentation that are tested empirically using quantitative time series data on unemployment protection from 17 advanced democracies. The analysis shows that institutional fragmentation is an important determinant of government responses to fiscal austerity, but the effect depends on the partisan composition of the government.

When: 3:30pm-5:30pm
Where: Darlington Centre Boardroom, University of Sydney
More information can be found at: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/government_international_relations/News_and_Events/colloquium.shtml
The Allen Feldman Guest Lectures
New York University

Allen Feldman is a political and medical anthropologist, and is an Associate Professor of the Department of Media, Culture and Communication and the visual culture program at New York University. His research and teaching interests include visual culture and violence, the political anthropology of embodiment and the senses, performance studies, and the philosophy of media. The author of the acclaimed 'Formations of Violence: the Narrative of the Body and Political Terror in Northern Ireland' and numerous essays on the anthropology of the senses and political violence. His forthcoming book is entitled Archives of the Insensible: Aisthesis, War, and Dead Memory (Duke 2013)

Thursday 22nd March 2012
Hosted by the Department of Anthropology

'Faceless Speciation: of Animal Natality, Aperity and Inhumanisation'

The violence that is poised between humanitas and inhumanitas speaks to the metaphysical ordering and phantasms of everyday political terror. Are practices of political aggression separable from the Western metaphysical divide between human and animal, and what are the ideological utilities of this divide? Are acts and discourses of inhumanization how philosophical anthropology (and all anthropologies are ultimately philosophical and political) confesses itself, not as theorem or disciplinary taxonomy, but as a political culture with the most severe material criteria and bodily consequences? Does political animality point to an anthropological sovereignty that only acquires positivity, tangibility, and figuration through its displacement onto, and passage into, the extimacy that is animality? And why does subjugated or expelled animality perennially threaten anthropological plenitude as an uncontainable negativity? These questions imply that the many thresholds of language, labour and finitude that have repeatedly delimited, governed and consigned the animal and human in metaphysical thought and practice can be remapped as a properly political dominion; a wildlife reserve in which philosophical, ethological, and anthropological declaratives and descriptions encrypt zoopolitical relations of power and force, and where the animal predicate circumscribes a concentrated time and space of subjugation, exposure, disappearance and abandonment.

When: Thursday 22nd March, 3pm
Where: Room 148, Level 1, RC Mills Building, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (No RSVP required)
More Information: Tess Lea - tess.lea@sydney.edu.au

Friday 23rd March 2012
Co-Hosted by the Departments of Gender and Cultural Studies and Sociology and Social Policy

The Disputation of Ashraf Salim: Sovereignty Before the Law

In Kafka’s fable “Before the Law” the appeal to infinite regress, to higher and deeper authority, creates the illusion of an interiority of law, that someone or something is within the hallowed and hollowed abode of the law even if this indwelling is merely the performance of withholding law from others, that is as the visibility of an invisibility that materializes a concrete delimited outside from an amorphic and disframed interiority.

The site of law has no positive content other than this act of exclusion, of making a border and a before of law as the event of a self-emptying event. Withholding renders sovereignty untouchable, unscathable and as such unprofanable as its law can be symbolized and re-presented but not presented or touched in situ. In its infinite regress Kafka’s law holds to its bare-life of withholding law and to the bared and exposed life from which law is withheld.

The Combatant Status Review Tribunals at Guantanamo (2002-2010) similarly inscribe a territory, a space, and a speculum where the sovereignty of the state can be performed as the event of withholding law, as a pantomime of a juridical legitimacy without legality that is mediated by the sheer gate-keeping performativity of hollowed out juridic forms and ceremonies including the publication of the transcript under discussion. It offers an opening to a non-event, an aperture that is withdrawn as law and act in its very appearing as an event. In the recesses of the security state, in the security state as an assemblage of recesses, the law itself is securitized and subjected to an extraordinary rendition and consigned to a black site from which all other black sites are authored and transmitted.

When: Friday 23rd March, 2pm
Where: The Refectory, Quadrangle Building, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (No RSVP required)
More Information: Tess Lea - tess.lea@sydney.edu.au
What Drives Chinese Aid in the Pacific?

Dr. Graeme Smith, China Studies Centre, University of Sydney

Hosted by the Asian Studies, University of Sydney

In some early portrayals, Chinese aid in the Pacific is a clumsy, neocolonial endeavor. Closer inspection shows the development of a complex phenomenon, as Pacific and Chinese actors gain experience working together and evolving into a bottom-up process. I argue that Pacific actors and locally registered Chinese infrastructure companies collaborate to influence Chinese embassies and financing agencies, shaping the blueprints for Chinese aid. It is time we shifted our analysis of Chinese aid and investment away from its failure to comply with international norms, and towards how Chinese actors and their local partners “get things done.”

Graeme Smith is a postdoctoral fellow in the China Studies Centre and Business School. He is also a visiting fellow in the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program at the Australian National University. His current research project examines Chinese investment in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr Smith also holds a PhD in environmental chemistry, has written several guidebooks to China and Beijing, and is the winner of the 2010 Gordon White Prize.

When: Thursday 22nd March, 5:30pm
Where: Common Room - Room 524, Brennan-McCallum Building, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (RSVP required)
More Information: Eileen Walsh - eileen.walsh@sydney.edu.au

Kony 2012: Beyond the Hype
Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

“The media have become the social space where power is decided.”
- Manuel Castells

On the 5th of March 2012, the organisation Invisible Children, released a video titled Kony 2012 on YouTube. The video called on the world to ‘make Kony visible’. To make a man, Ugandan Joseph Kony, leader of the LRA, so famous he would have no where to hide. So famous that the US government would not be able to ignore the issues surrounding Kony, and help bring him to justice in the ICC.

The history of civil conflict in Uganda is long and complex. Its political direction and the power dynamics in the area go beyond what you see in the video ‘Kony 2012.’ Who is Joseph Kony and the LRA? What does transitional justice and the ICC indictment mean for the area and its lasting peace building efforts? This seminar will take a look at the story beyond Kony 2012. It will provide a background to the current hype surrounding the area with input from a range of sources including two academics who have spent time researching and training in northern Uganda about the ICC, peace-building, public health and reconciliation, and a panel of postgraduate students from Uganda and South Sudan. The panel will also include the documentary filmmaker behind the SBS-screened Modern Slavery set partly in northern Uganda looking at the plight of child soldiers.

Speakers include: Professor Robert Cumming (Public Health) & Dr Wendy Lambourne (CPACS), both recently returned from Northern Uganda

Panelists: Dr Richard Okello (UNSW), Atem Atem (ANU), James Tonny Dhizaala (USYD), and others

When: Thursday 22nd March, 4pm
Where: Room 275, Carslaw Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney
Cost: FREE (RSVP required)
More Information: Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies - arts.cpacs@sydney.edu.au
Politics in the Pub

Politics in the Pub is a program of speakers and discussions centring around the broad theme of politics. The convenors describe themselves as ‘people who characterise ourselves as “left” and “democratic” who have established a left politico-cultural focus in Sydney to promote cross fertilisation and discussion.’

Friday 23rd March 2012

Superannuation Reform: Bonanza for the Rich, Rip-Off for the Rest
Speakers:
Eva Cox - Feminist, social activist and commentator
Brian Toohey - Economic Journalist
Michael Rafferty - Workplace Research Centre, University of Sydney

Friday 30th March 2012

West Papua: Indonesian Violence, Australian Indifference, West Papua Hopes
Speakers:
Dr. Peter King, Government and International Relations, University of Sydney
Dr. Cammi Webb-Gannon, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney

Friday 13th April 2012

The Arab Spring: Work In Progress
Speakers:
Hon. Associate Professor Ahmad Shboul, University of Sydney
Dr. Noah Bassil, Macquarie University

Friday 20th April 2012

Courage in Public Life

Barry Jones AO, author and former Hawke Cabinet Minister, joins Mary Kostakidis, journalist and former SBS newreader in conversation about his life in the spotlight.

Friday 27th April 2012

Burma: The Beginning of the Thaw in the Military Dictatorship?
Speakers:
Dr. Sean Turnell, Economics, Macquarie University
Zetty Brake, Co-ordinator of the Burma Campaign, Australia

When: 6pm - 7:45pm (dinner afterwards in nearby restaurant)
Where: The Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills (across from Chalmer St exit and Devonshire St. tunnel at Central Station)
Cost: FREE (no RSVP required)
More Information: www.politicsinthe.pub.org.au. Enquires to Charles Bradley - odl_bradley@pacific.net.au

The current program can be found at - http://politicsinthe.pub.org.au/politicspub_1_2012.pdf
Entrepreneurship and Human Rights: Knights Apparel’s Ethical Business Model
United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney

Founder of Knights Apparel, Joe Bozich, will share how Alta Gracia, a brand of Knights Apparel, is replacing what has been seen as a sweatshop model of manufacturing with a new model of ethical business through its factory in the Dominican Republic. Formed in 2001, Knights Apparel is the largest supplier of college licensed apparel in the United States, a position previously held by Nike. Knights Apparel also holds exclusive apparel rights with the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Hockey League (NHL) in America.

Alta Gracia is the only apparel brand in the world that has been independently verified to pay a ‘living wage’ to the people who make its clothing. This means paying workers enough so they can provide their families with food, clean water, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, child care, education and health care. Alta Gracia workers are paid more than three times the minimum wage for apparel workers in the Dominican Republic.

From the beginning, Bozich has engaged labour experts, retailers, university students and the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) in developing the Knights Apparel business model. Hear how this important collaboration is helping secure a sustainable pathway out of poverty for workers while also building the Alta Gracia Brand and strengthening Knights Apparel’s bottom line.

When: Tuesday 27th March, 4:30pm
Where: The Great Hall, Quadrangle Building, University of Sydney
Cost and Registration: FREE

Screening of ‘Human Terrain’
School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Sydney

The School of Social and Political Sciences invites you to an exclusive screening of the Documentary ‘Human Terrain’, a documentary exploring the controversial approach, a new strategy of cultural awareness to win over the hearts and minds of the Iraqi and Afghan people.

Seeking to understand ‘why they hate us’, the US military initiates ‘Human Terrain Systems’, a controversial program that seeks to make cultural awareness the centre piece of the new Counterinsurgency strategy. Designed to embed social scientists with combat troops, the program swiftly comes under attack as a misguided and unethical effort to gather intelligence and target enemies.

The other story is of a brilliant young scholar who leaves the university to join a Human Terrain team. In the course of conducting research on military cultural awareness, he is recruited by the Human Terrain program and eventually embeds with the 82nd Airborne in eastern Afghanistan. On the way to mediate an intertribal dispute, Bhatia is killed when his humvee hits a roadside bomb.

War becomes academic, academics go to war, and the personal tragically merges with the political, raising new questions about the ethics, effectiveness and high costs of counterinsurgency.

Professor James Der Derian is a Watson Institute Professor (Research) of International Studies at Brown University, where he leads a research initiative, “Global Engagement Through Innovative Media.” He is author most recently of Virtuous War: Mapping the Militar-Industrial-Media-Entertainment Network (Routledge, 2nd ed. 2009).

When: Wednesday 28th March, 4pm
Where: Old Geology Theatre, Edgeworth David Building, Science Road, University of Sydney
Map: http://db.auth.usyd.edu.au/directories/map/largemap00a.html - D15
Cost and Registration: FREE
Registration is essential - sdi@sydney.edu.au
Can NSW be Governed? Lessons from the Carr to Keneally Era
Gleebooks

Labor retained power in NSW for sixteen years. How did they do it and what were their achievements? And why did they eventually become so reviled? From Carr to Keneally, the definitive account of the Labor era, explains. At the NSW state election in 2011 the public turned on the Labor administration with unprecedented fury. That same government had won spectacular electoral victories in 1999 and 2003.

From Carr to Keneally sees some of Australia’s most respected experts analyse the Labor era in NSW: the political parties and their electoral fortunes: policies in key areas; the premiers and their ministers, and their relationship with the public service. Specialists provide an assessment of how Labor performed in key policy areas such as the economy, health, law and order, transport, education, planning and the environment. All aspects of Labor’s resounding defeat at the 2011 election - which saw a swing that was an Australian post-war record - are thoroughly covered: the campaign by the government and the opposition; the news media coverage; polls and voter attitudes, and a seat by seat breakdown of the results. From Carr to Keneally includes a stirring introductory chapter from former NSW Labor minister Rodney Cavalier and concludes with some thought-provoking speculations about the future direction of Labor and the Coalition, and the nature of NSW politics.

Panel Members: Rodney Smith, Government and International Relations; Anne Twomey, Faculty of Law and Paul Fawcett, Government and International Relations, University of Sydney; and Murray Goot, Politics, Macquarie University

When: Thursday 29th March, 6pm
Where: Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe
Cost: $10/$7 conc. Gleeclub members welcome
Enquiries and Registration: Gleebooks - (02) 9660 2333 or Secure Booking here.

Cosmopolitan Democracy: Paths and Agents
International Society Research Cluster

Readings By: Daniele Archibugi and David Held
Working Paper IRPPS-CNR n. 34, January 2011

Hunting the Rogues and Breaking the Internet:
A New Front in the OnlineCopyright Enforcement Battle
Associate Professor Kimberlee Weatherall, University of Sydney

Hosted by Media @ Sydney

The Internet Blackout in January 2012 saw thousands of websites ‘go dark’ to protest proposed US laws designed to implement a ‘multisystem denial of service attack’ against alleged IP-infringing websites by making them both unfindable, and by cutting off any financial support. Within days, the laws – known as SOPA and PIPA – were effectively dead. But when and how did such laws even reach the stage of serious discussion? This paper will look at what’s changed, and how and why regulating internet intermediaries and making them the internet ‘police’ has gradually become more acceptable to governments.

Kimberlee Weatherall is an Associate Professor at the Sydney Law School (http://sydney.edu.au/law/about/staff/KimberleeWeatherall/). Prior to joining the School in 2012, Kimberlee held positions at the University of Queensland, the University of Melbourne and the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia. Kimberlee teaches and researches in intellectual property law, with a particular interest in digital copyright, the relationship between international trade and intellectual property, and the systems for administration and enforcement of intellectual property rights. She has been a member of the Law Council of Australia IP Subcommittee since 2006 and sits on the board of the Australian Digital Alliance and the Arts Law Centre of Australia.

When: Friday 30th March 2012, 2pm
Where: Rogers Room, Woolley Building (A20), University of Sydney -- see map: http://db.auth.usyd.edu.au/directories/map/building.stm?location=12E
Cost: FREE
The concept of economic development (pembangunan) in Indonesia now involves a shift in the idea of the person from someone who is mobilised to someone who is mobile, making the old post-revolutionary model of mass participation defunct. I suggest that people as agents of development are no longer viewed as staying at home to build community but as moving between cities to find work. The concept has influenced Indonesia’s new Master Plan and finds its clearest articulation in the World Development Report 2009. I will critically assess this idea by moving the emphasis away from income and economic growth to reveal the social and economic consequences of migration, such as the heightened surveillance of new comers (pendatang) that has been brought about by recent anti-terror campaigns, and the fear of community disintegration that is being felt by the residents of neighbourhoods with many new migrants. I will also show how these new interventions and fears have been marked by the shift from a sovereignty based on violence to one based on culture and fuelled by a contemporary urban entrepreneurialism in Indonesia.

Robbie Peters is a lecturer in the University of Sydney’s Anthropology Department and Director of its Master of Development Studies program. He has a recent book on the history of Surabaya and journal articles on new forms of urbanisation in Indonesia and Vietnam.

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**Thinking Cities through Things:**
**A Material and Spatial Approach to Public Space and the City**
**Professor Sophie Watson, The Open University UK**

The materiality of urban space is analytically important but until recently it has largely been marginalised in urban studies. Thus, the aim in this talk is to bring this perspective to the centre of the analysis of the city. The paper first reviews how materiality has been taken up in the work of key urbanists. It then proposes a conceptual and methodological orientation that draws on these and sets out a way for analysing public space through materiality. In particular the paper addresses religious sites in East London.

The last decade has seen renewed interest in the shaping of religious community and questions of religious identification and belonging. Much of this work addresses questions of identity, race and diversity, but there are also new understandings of the way these elements intersect with the material and spatial dimensions of urban life which will be discussed here.

**Sophie Watson** is Professor of Sociology at the Open University UK and is part of the OpenSpace Research Centre. Her research areas include public space and the multi-cultural practices of everyday life; religion, culture and materiality; new religious cultural practices, identities and spaces.

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**When:** Friday 20th April 2012, 2pm
**Where:** The Refectory, Quadrangle Building, University of Sydney
**Cost:** FREE
**Enquiries:** Tess Lea - tess.lea@sydney.edu.au or Elsbeth Probyn - elsbeth.probyn@sydney.edu.au
Violence against women is a major problem in all countries, affecting women in every socio-economic group and at every life stage. Nowhere in the world do women share equal social and economic rights with men or the same access as men to productive resources.

From a political economy perspective, sexual violence in recent armed conflicts is an integral part of this pattern of pervasive violence. Yet the United Nations Security Council frames wartime sexual violence as “exceptional”. UN security interventions to protect against mass sexual violence in armed conflict, fail to conceptualize sexual violence during war as part of the continuum of gender-based violence that transgresses familiar soldier-civilian, male-female, state-non-state perpetrator, war-peace boundaries that thrives under conditions of globalized conflict significantly hampering any violence protection efforts.

Using the example of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the seminar hopes to show how economic and political mechanisms linked to global processes including the UN's own presence, competition over resources, struggle for economic and political power, and the reproduction of militarised masculinities through war and profit, contribute to sexual violence against women in this conflict-affected society. The paper draws implications from political economy analysis for international peace operations that seek not only to protect against and prosecute perpetrators of this violence but to prevent it in the long run.

**When:** 3:30pm-5:30pm  
**Where:** Darlington Centre Boardroom, University of Sydney

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**Everything Political** is an events newsletter designed to publicise details of all forthcoming research and public events in the field of politics, very broadly defined. The newsletter is not confined to events (co-)hosted by the University of Sydney: it hopes to include all interested parties who wish to publicise and promote politics-themed events. Everything Political will be published on the last Thursday of each month.

Everything Political is a new public service to all members of staff, and to interested publics outside the University. Its main purpose is to raise the level of visibility and co-operation among research and teaching staff interested in politics. The newsletter will enable people to plan their events in advance, so avoiding clashes and duplication.

**Event Submission**

Everything Political is an initiative of staff based at the University of Sydney, the University of Western Sydney and the University of New South Wales. It will be published on the last Thursday of each month. If you wish to submit details of an event for inclusion in the newsletter, please email: sdi@sydney.edu.au by the 17th of the month. We require the following information for every event:

- Brief summary of the event, including titles, speakers, relevant subject details and details of the sponsoring organisations
- When, where (maps included, where possible), cost and RSVP or further information details
- An image in JPEG, GIF or High Res format related to your event

**Subscription**

Please email your details including name, organisation (where applicable) and email address to sdi@sydney.edu.au

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**University of Sydney**
**University of New South Wales**
**UNSW**

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**Government and International Relations Colloquium Series**

**University of Sydney**

**Thursday 26th April 2012**

**The United Nations and Violence Against Women**
**Professor Jacqui True, Monash University**

- Violence against women is a major problem in all countries, affecting women in every socio-economic group and at every life stage. Nowhere in the world do women share equal social and economic rights with men or the same access as men to productive resources.

- From a political economy perspective, sexual violence in recent armed conflicts is an integral part of this pattern of pervasive violence. Yet the United Nations Security Council frames wartime sexual violence as “exceptional”. UN security interventions to protect against mass sexual violence in armed conflict, fail to conceptualize sexual violence during war as part of the continuum of gender-based violence that transgresses familiar soldier-civilian, male-female, state-non-state perpetrator, war-peace boundaries that thrives under conditions of globalized conflict significantly hampering any violence protection efforts.

- Using the example of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the seminar hopes to show how economic and political mechanisms linked to global processes including the UN's own presence, competition over resources, struggle for economic and political power, and the reproduction of militarised masculinities through war and profit, contribute to sexual violence against women in this conflict-affected society. The paper draws implications from political economy analysis for international peace operations that seek not only to protect against and prosecute perpetrators of this violence but to prevent it in the long run.

**When:** 3:30pm-5:30pm  
**Where:** Darlington Centre Boardroom, University of Sydney