



Sydney Southeast Asia Research Innovation Symposium

*Enhancing Research Impact and Building
Partnerships in Southeast Asia*

Wednesday, 6 November 2024

12:00 – 17:30

The Refectory, Holme Building, Science Road
The University of Sydney



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY
—
Sydney Southeast
Asia Centre

*Preceded by the Postgraduate
Workshop from 10.30am onwards.
Separate registration required.*

Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is forging Australia's relationship with one of the world's fastest growing regions by educating students and building new partnerships with academics and governments based on research excellence.

With more than 400 academics across all faculties and schools working on and in Southeast Asia, the University of Sydney has one of the highest concentrations of regional expertise in the world.

Event proceedings

This flagship event will showcase the work of our members across Southeast Asia and bring together the wider University community to catalyse new research engagement in the region.

The Symposium will feature a Keynote address by Nicholas Moore AO, Special Envoy for Southeast Asia and lead author of *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*, focusing on what Australia's strategy for Southeast Asia means for research and innovation.

The program will also include sessions on:

- Research that changes lives: Snapshots of our impact in Southeast Asia
- Becoming outstanding partners: Enhancing our academic engagement in Southeast Asia
- Working in the region together: The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre's Country Academic Networks

The Symposium will conclude with our Ignition grant finalists presenting their research funding pitch, with the winners announced on the day.



Program

Postgraduate Workshop Venue: Cullen Room, Holme Building

Symposium Venue: The Refectory, Holme Building

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
10:00	<i>Postgraduate Workshop Registration</i> <i>Morning tea on arrival</i>	
10:30	Postgraduate Workshop	
11:30	<i>Symposium Registration</i>	
12:00	Networking Lunch	
13:00	Welcome to Country	Aunty Rhonda
13:05	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Prof Kathy Belov
13:10	SSEAC's Vision to 2030 <i>Addressing the critical challenges</i> <i>facing Southeast Asia: SSEAC's vision</i> <i>to 2030</i>	Prof Gregory Fox
13:30	Research that Changes Lives <i>Snapshots of SSEAC's Impact in</i> <i>Southeast Asia</i>	Chair: Prof Tiho Ancev – Dr Jennifer Ferng – Prof Susan Park – A/Prof Petr Matous – A/Prof Jane Gavan – Dr Kerrie Wiley
14:10	Becoming Outstanding Partners <i>Enhancing our Academic Engagement</i> <i>in Southeast Asia</i>	Chair: Dr Natali Pearson – A/Prof Susan Banki – Prof Adrian Vickers – Prof Budiman Minasny
14:50	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker	Prof Gregory Fox
15:00	Keynote Address <i>What Does Australia's Strategy for</i> <i>Southeast Asia Mean for Research and</i> <i>Innovation?</i>	Mr Nicholas Moore

Program

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
15:35	Afternoon Tea	
16:05	Working in the Region Together <i>SSEAC's Country Academic Networks</i>	<i>Facilitated by SSEAC</i> <i>Country Convenors</i>
16:30	Funding Success in Southeast Asia <i>Navigating the Research Funding Landscape</i>	Chair: Prof Tiho Ancev – Prof Justin Hastings – Ms Wicky West – Mr Barnaby Caddy
16:50	Ignition Grant Presentations – A/Prof Sonia Liu – A/Prof Minh-Ngoc Tran – Prof Michael Dibley – A/Prof Alejandro Montoya – Dr Archita Mishra	Panel of Judges: – Prof Tiho Ancev – Dr Elizabeth Cowley – Prof Gregory Fox – Dr Sandra Seno Alday
17:20	Wrap-Up and Next Steps	Prof Gregory Fox
17:30	Networking Drinks	
17:45	Announcement of Ignition Grant Recipients	Prof Gregory Fox



Professor Gregory Fox

Director (Interim), Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

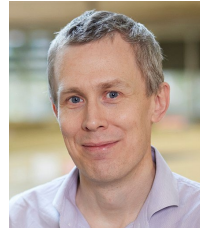
Professor of Respiratory Medicine

NHMRC Leadership Professorial Fellow, Faculty of Medicine and Health

Research Leader, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research

Respiratory Physician, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown

Area Director of TB Services, Sydney Local Health District



Greg Fox is interim Director of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre at the University of Sydney, and Professor of Respiratory Medicine. He has led clinical trials and research relating to infectious diseases and chronic disease for the University of Sydney in Vietnam for over a decade. His research, in combination with guideline development work for the World Health Organisation, have contributed to changes in global TB policies and clinical practice. Professor Fox works clinically as a Respiratory Physician at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Twitter/X: [@foxsimile](https://twitter.com/foxsimile)

Professor Tihomir Ancev

Deputy Director, Research Development, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics

School of Economics, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



Tiho Ancev is a Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics. He holds degrees from Saints Cyril and Methodius University (Bachelor), University of Iceland (Master) and Oklahoma State University (PhD). His main research areas are agricultural, environmental, natural resource and energy economics. Tiho's main contributions have been in water economics and policy, economics of energy, economics of air pollution and climate change policies, and economics of precision agriculture and agricultural input use. He has published widely on these topics in top international peer reviewed journals. Tiho has led and contributed to national and international research projects in these research areas. He is currently the Managing Editor-in-Chief of the *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.

Dr Natali Pearson

Curriculum Coordinator, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

Dr Natali Pearson is a Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Archaeology and Curriculum Coordinator at the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC).



Her research focuses on maritime heritage in Southeast Asia, with her recent book *Belitung: The Afterlives of a Shipwreck*, published by the University of Hawaii Press and NUS Press. Natali's DECRA Fellowship, commencing in 2025, will focus on maritime heritage diplomacy and sunken warships in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste.

At SSEAC, Natali hosts the internationally syndicated *SSEAC Stories* podcast. Natali serves as the President of the Indonesia Council, is an Expert Member of the ICOMOS International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management, and acts as a Councillor for the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology. She is also a proud alumna of the Australian Consortium for In-Country Indonesian Studies (2000) and the Asialink Leaders Program (2009).

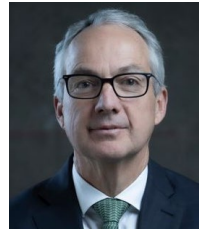
Twitter/X: [@sea_greeny](https://twitter.com/sea_greeny)

Keynote Address:

What does Australia's strategy for Southeast Asia mean for research and innovation?

Nicholas Moore AO

Special Envoy for Southeast Asia
Commonwealth Government



Nicholas Moore is a former Chief Executive Officer of Macquarie Group Limited. He retired in 2018 after 32 years at Macquarie, including 10 years as CEO.

Nicholas has a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of NSW (UNSW). He was admitted as a solicitor and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. In 2017, Nicholas was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Business from UNSW.

He is Chair of Screen Australia, The Centre for Independent Studies, The Smith Family, Willow Technology Corporation, the National Catholic Education Commission and Aldus Group, and a member of the UNSW Business School Advisory Council.

In November 2022, Nicholas was appointed as Special Envoy for Southeast Asia for the Commonwealth Government.

Nicholas was formerly Chair of the Sydney Opera House Trust and PCYC NSW, and has held directorships at Sydney Airport, Hills Motorway, National Gallery of Australia and QBiotics Group. In addition, Nicholas formerly chaired the Financial Regulator Assessment Authority and the Markets Taskforce Expert Advisory Panel, both within the Department of the Treasury. In 2020, he was appointed by the Australian Government as Emissary for the administration of Virgin Australia.

Research that Changes Lives

Snapshots of SSEAC's Impact in Southeast Asia

Dr Jennifer Ferng

Senior Lecturer in Architecture

Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning



Jennifer Ferng is Senior Lecturer in Architecture and B.DesArch (honours) M.Arch Program Director. Her research across the Asia Pacific examines how environmental and humanitarian histories have impacted contemporary issues related to the climate crisis and the forced displacement of asylum seekers and refugees. Her edited books include *Crafting Enlightenment: Artisanal Histories and Transnational Networks* (2021); *Drawing Climate: Visualising Invisible Elements of Architecture* (2021); *Land Air Sea: Architecture and Environment in the Early Modern Era* (2023). Her current monograph *Corporate Ethics and the Architecture of Asylum* addresses how multinational contractors who build detention centres in offshore sites are complicit in violating human rights.

Website: <https://sydney.academia.edu/JenniferFerng>

Instagram: [@fernifique](https://www.instagram.com/@fernifique)

Professor Susan Park

Professor of Global Governance, School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

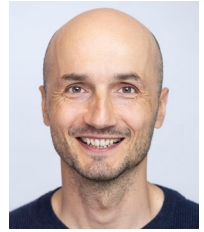


Susan Park is Professor of Global Governance in Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. She focuses on how international organisations and global governance can become greener and more accountable, particularly in the transition to renewable energy. Her most recent books are: *The Good Hegemon* (2022, OUP) and *Environmental Recourse at the Multilateral Development Banks* (2020, CUP). She is co-lead Editor of the journal *Global Environmental Politics*. She was a Senior Hans Fischer Fellow at the Technical University of Munich (2019–2023) and is a Research Lead of the Earth Systems Governance project.

Twitter/X: [@spark_syd](https://twitter.com/@spark_syd)

Associate Professor Petr Matous

Associate Professor, School of Project Management,
Faculty of Engineering



Associate Professor Matous researches how to leverage social networks in projects and programs aimed to serve local communities experiencing changing climate and disaster shocks. A significant part of his research has been conducted in Southeast Asia (but also in various other parts of the world including Australia, where he is based, and Japan, where he obtained his PhD).

Petr's data collection instruments and modelling has informed targeting of agricultural sustainability programs to thousands of farmers across Indonesia, supporting large-scale adoption of resource-conserving technologies.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/petr-matous-3503824/>

Twitter/X: [@petrmatus](https://twitter.com/petrmatus)

Associate Professor Jane Gavan

Sydney College of the Arts



Associate Professor Jane Gavan is an artist-researcher who curates in-country collaborations between creative practitioners and organisations. Jane's research seeks to offer opportunities for sustainable, innovative ways of raising productivity and valuing creativity in Vietnam. Her recent major exhibition, *Manufacturing Creativity* at the Museum of Ho Chi Minh City, was supported by UNESCO and the Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies. Through this work, Jane develops new access to materials, processes, and audiences for creative practitioners, and builds sustainable socially responsible innovation in firms.

Jane is based at the Sydney College of the Arts, in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney, teaching across all levels. Jane also leads workshops for the FASS capstone Interdisciplinary Impact and advises on the School of Business Master of Commerce Creativity and Data unit. Jane is on the Executive of the Sydney Vietnam Initiative.

Dr Kerrie Wiley

Sydney Horizon Fellow, Sydney School of Public Health,
Faculty of Medicine and Health



Dr Kerrie Wiley originally trained as a clinical microbiologist and worked in research and development / technical services for several pharmaceutical companies for over a decade before she decided to retrain in clinical epidemiology and public health.

Along the way, she discovered qualitative research and fell in love with how it could provide insights into complex public health problems. She left her clinical life behind and became a leading social scientist who is using mixed methods research to tackle the issue of vaccination uptake.

While she's still fascinated in the epidemiology of disease, Dr Wiley believes it cannot be addressed without also using social science to understand the influence of human behaviour. Social science explains why people make the choices they do, what motivates them to act, and how barriers can be removed.

In the field of vaccination, her methods provide insights into how to improve access, how to normalise vaccination, and how to address vaccine hesitancy.

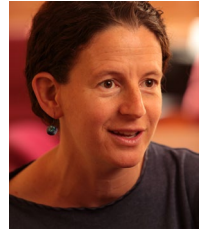
Her Sydney Horizon project aims further understanding of the enablers and barriers to vaccination of both humans and animals, with the aim of developing new approaches to increase vaccine uptake in agriculture as well as human health. The project will look at human and animal vaccination in Australia and beyond. Importantly, it also aims to establish best practice for embedding social science in public and animal health decision making.

Becoming Outstanding Partners

Enhancing our Academic Engagement in Southeast Asia

Associate Professor Susan Banki

Senior Lecturer in Human Rights, School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



Susan Banki studies the political, institutional, and social contexts that explain the roots of and solutions to human rights violations and social justice abuses. In particular, she is interested in the ways that questions of sovereignty, transnationalism, and citizenship/membership have shaped our responses to conflict and injustice. Susan has conducted extensive field research across the Asia-Pacific on refugee/migrant protection, statelessness and border control. Her current projects include: the work of diasporas in responding to acute crises at home; humanitarian responses to complex displacement contexts; and the role of creative arts in transnational activism.

Twitter/X: [@susanbanki](https://twitter.com/susanbanki)

Professor Adrian Vickers

Chair of Asian Studies

Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, School of Languages and Cultures, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

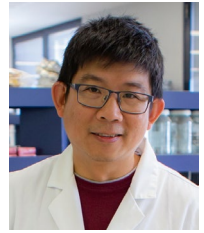


Adrian Vickers is Professor of Southeast Asian Studies and Chair of Asian Studies in the School of Languages and Cultures. His books include *Bali: A Paradise Created* (originally published in 1989), *A History of Modern Indonesia* (first published 2005) and *The Pearl Frontier: Indonesian Labor and Indigenous Encounters in Australia's Northern Trading Network*, co-authored with Julia Martínez. He is currently lead Investigator in the ARC-funded project, *Opening the Multilingual Archive of Australia*.

Twitter/X: [@AdrianVickers5](https://twitter.com/AdrianVickers5)

Professor Budiman Minasny

Professor in Soil-Landscape Modelling, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science



Budiman Minasny is a Professor in soil-landscape modelling at the University of Sydney. He is a soil scientist and a fellow of Australia Academy of Science. He is recognized as a Highly Cited Researcher since 2019 by the Web of Science.

Budiman has an undergraduate degree from Universitas Sumatera Utara in Indonesia and a MAg and PhD degrees in soil science from the University of Sydney.

He is passionate about the role of soil in managing climate change, food, water, energy security, and maintaining biodiversity. He has more than 160 international journal publications and is recognised as the leader in digital soil mapping and modelling. His research and contribution to the discipline of soil science has been on discovering the causes and controls of soil distribution over space and time.

Funding Success in Southeast Asia

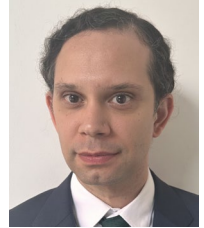
Navigating the Research Funding Landscape

Professor Justin Hastings

Professor in International Relations and Comparative Politics

School of Social and Political Sciences

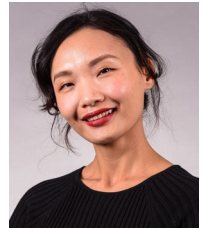
Director of Research Development, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



Professor Justin Hastings is Professor of International Relations and Comparative Politics, and the Regional Security Program Leader for the Centre for International Security Studies. He also currently serves as the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Director of Research Development. His research on Southeast Asia covers a number of security issues, including terrorism, organized crime, insurgency, maritime security, nuclear security and safeguards, and geopolitical strategy.

Wicky West

Associate Director, Business and Research Development
BCom, MPA (Sydney)



Wicky West is the Associate Director of Business and Research Development at the University of Sydney, where she leads strategic initiatives to secure significant government and industry funding.

With over a decade of experience in the higher education sector, she specialises in developing and delivering professional services that address organisational challenges and drive impactful results. Wicky oversees a portfolio of more than 300 active business leads, with an annual revenue potential of \$260 million, and provides oversight on research development strategies for grant applications across major Australian and international funding programs, including ARC, NHMRC, MRFF, and international opportunities.

Barnaby Caddy

**Deputy Director of Development (International Foundations)
Advancement Portfolio**



Barnaby Caddy is the Deputy Director of Development (International Foundations) in the Advancement Portfolio at the University of Sydney. He manages relationships with large international philanthropic foundations with a view to securing funding for research projects.

He started his career holding various federal government positions with an international focus including the Department of Defence, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Australian Civil-Military Centre. He then moved into the international development and humanitarian aid sectors where he managed programs on behalf of the United Nations and large international NGOs and foundations in West Africa, Turkey, South-East Asia, the Pacific and North Korea.

Immediately prior to joining the University, Barnaby worked with the NSW Department of Communities & Justice managing large grant rounds. His core interests are centered around donor relations, strategy and project design.

Ignition Grant Presentations Session – Judges

Dr Elizabeth Cowley

Academic Director Strategic Collaborations, Office of Global and Research Engagement



Elizabeth Cowley has an MBA in Marketing and Management Information Systems from McGill University in Montreal. After graduating, Elizabeth worked for several years in the Marketing and Marketing Planning departments of the largest integrated oil company in Canada. Her doctorate was completed at the University of Toronto. Her research interests are consumer memory, decision making, deception, and motivated memory reconstruction. Elizabeth's research is published in the *Journal of Consumer Research*, the *Journal of Consumer Psychology*, the *International Journal of Research in Marketing*, the *Academy of Marketing Science*, the *Journal of Advertising*, and the *Journal of Business Research*. Elizabeth also works with the Office of Global and Research Engagement as Academic Director Strategic Collaborations.

Dr Sandra Seno Alday

Deputy Head of the Discipline of International Business, University of Sydney Business School



Dr Sandra Seno Alday is Deputy Head of the Discipline of International Business at the University of Sydney Business School. Extending her experience in strategy and organisation development consulting, her scholarly and industry research explores risk management and transformational knowledge creation for sustainable futures. Sandra is a member of the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Executive Committee.

Committed to excellence and innovation in higher education, Sandra is a recipient of an Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning.

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Ignition Grant Presentations Session – Presenters

Associate Professor Sonia Liu

School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Poultry Research Foundation, Faculty of Science



Associate Professor Sonia Liu is a poultry nutritionist from the University of Sydney, Australia. Her research focuses on reduced protein diets, digestive dynamics of nutrients, amino acid nutrition in layers and broilers and feed grain quality.

Sonia has more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications. She is the recipient of 2015 Australian Department of Agriculture, Science and Innovation Award for Young People, 2018 The Australia Awards - Endeavour Research Fellowship and 2019 Australia Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award. She is currently an Australia Research Council Industry Fellow and College of Experts member.

Associate Professor Minh-Ngoc Tran

Discipline of Business Analytics, University of Business School



Minh-Ngoc holds a BSc and MSc in Mathematics from Vietnam National University, Hanoi, and a PhD in Statistics from the National University of Singapore. His research spans statistical methodologies and applications, with a focus on advancing Data Science in Southeast Asia.

Minh-Ngoc's work is internationally recognised and published in leading journals and conferences. He has secured nearly \$2 million in research funding, including three ARC grants. In 2021, he was named Australia's top researcher in applied probability and statistics by *Australian Research Magazine* and awarded the "Rising Star Fellow" title by the University of Sydney Business School for 2021–2023.

Twitter/X: [@ngocmath1](https://twitter.com/ngocmath1)

Ignition Grant Presentations Session – Presenters

Professor Michael J Dibley

Faculty of Science



Professor Michael Dibley is an internationally recognised epidemiologist with over 30 years of research experience. He has been a Professor of Global Public Health Nutrition at the University of Sydney since 2015. His involvement with Indonesia began in the 1970s as a medical student. He worked in Indonesia for a decade in the 1990s, and from 2015 to 2020, he collaborated on a nutrition BCC trial in East Java to improve child growth. In 2023, he hosted 15 Australian Award Fellows from Indonesia to analyse trends and determinants in child undernutrition. Recently, he has led efforts to establish an MoU between the University of Sydney and the Indonesian Ministry of Development Planning (BAPPENAS).

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-dibley-207b2023>

Twitter/X: [@mjdibley](https://twitter.com/mjdibley)

Associate Professor Alejandro Montoya

Director of Environmental Engineering, School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Faculty of Engineering



Dr Alejandro Montoya is an accomplished associate professor at the School of Chemical Engineering at the University of Sydney. His research focuses on developing compact, environmentally friendly, and energy-efficient chemical reactors. His work addresses solutions for waste and mineral valorisation, biomass conversion, carbon material utilisation, plastic reprocessing, advanced wastewater treatment, and nanomaterial applications. Dr Montoya has secured approximately AU\$10M in funding from diverse sources, often as lead chief investigator, establishing robust research streams in biofuels, critical minerals, and wastewater treatment.

He developed the new Environmental Engineering Honours degree at the University of Sydney, welcoming its first cohort in 2025. He currently leads the degree focusing on promotion, curriculum alignment, and industry engagement.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alejandro-montoya-2a013321/>

Ignition Grant Presentations Session – Presenters

Dr Archita Mishra

Sydney Horizon Fellow, Senior Lecturer in Infection, Immunology and Inflammation, School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health



Dr Archita Mishra is a Sydney Horizon Fellow at the University of Sydney. Dr Mishra leads the ‘Early-life Microbiome and Immunity’ lab and her research is focused on understanding the role of gut-microbes in immune development. Dr Mishra’s seminal work has shown the presence of microbes during human fetal development and their impact on immune-memory.

Dr Mishra completed her PhD from Indian Institute of Sciences and then did her post-doctoral work at Singapore Immunology Network, ASTAR.

Dr Mishra has received highly prestigious fellowships like the Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP), INSA Medal for Young Scientist, and the Rain BrightSpark Fellow Award.

Dr Mishra is part of global consortiums like Human Cell Atlas where she heads the Global Microbiome initiative and her research findings have been published in leading journals like *Cell*, *Immunity*, *The Lancet*, etc.





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