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As Tony Abbott faced the toughest test of his short Prime Ministerial tenure over the Australia-Indonesia spying crisis, the ABC's 7.30 program called on ANU professor Hugh White to make sense of the saga.

It's not unusual for academics from the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific to appear on Australia's national public broadcaster. Professor Desmond Ball, a colleague of White's from the college's Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, was widely quoted after speaking to Four Corners about China's alleged theft of blueprints from the Australian Secret Intelligence Organisation's new $630 million headquarters in Canberra.

Not that we're bragging. It's just that we're proud of who we are and what we do. Being based in Canberra, our expertise goes beyond the boundaries of teaching and research, to providing the federal government and diplomats alike with all manner of advice on the Asia Pacific region.

College's buildings, white dignitaries consult a world expert on the Australian economy and population trends, the East Timor general election, the Chinese leadership, or the Bougainville peace process. But it's not just at home that we are actively engaged with the issues facing the region. Our staff and students can be found all across the Asia Pacific working with and learning from our neighbours.

From untangling the causes of conflict and planting the seeds of peace, to helping conserve Cambodia's forests; from charting Myanmar's political transformation, to running the numbers on China's economic rise; from uncovering ancient Pacific settlements lost to climate change, to advising on Oceania's social policies. Our people help tell the story, understand the day-to-day and map the future of Asia and the Pacific.

Teaching expertise and academic excellence have been cornerstones of Asian and Pacific studies at ANU since early days. The College is proud to include among its former research and teaching staff Sir John Crawford, a pioneer in the building of an Asia Pacific economic and policy community; AL Basham, author of what remains today the most widely-used introduction to Indian civilisation; Stephen Wurm, the world's foremost expert on the languages of New Guinea; and Hedley Bull, a key scholar on international relations.

Nowadays the College is home to more than 200 experts, researchers and teachers, boasting the likes of Professor Hilary Charlesworth, a world-renowned expert on international law and human rights; along with Professor Nicholas Evans, a leading linguistics expert who is working tirelessly to save endangered languages across the globe. Motives for studying at the College are as varied as the number of disciplines it offers. To gain fluency in a language of Asia and the Pacific and study languages not taught elsewhere in Australia. To live and study in the region. To prepare for a career overseas with an international non-government organisation (NGO). To work for the government, or in private enterprise.

In the 'Asian century', the College’s focus on Asia and the Pacific is more relevant now than ever before, and ANU is indisputably the best place to prepare the next generation of regional specialists for the challenges of this century, and Australia and the region's place in it.
HAMISH MCDONALD takes a look at India’s mobile phone revolution.

With India again in the doldrums after a spell as the rising counterweight to China, the story of its explosive uptake in mobile phones is a corrective one.

In 1998, India had only 880,000 mobile phones. Last year it counted 900 million for its 1.22 billion people – a leapfrogging leap from fixed-line phones, which grew from 18 million to 35 million.

It all happened despite efforts by bureaucrats and politicians to impose conditions set to make it fail and retain state monopolies, say two Australian-based India specialists, media-watching political scientist Robin Jeffrey and ANU College of Asia and the Pacific anthropologist Assa Doron.

In their colourful new study, The Great Indian Phone Book (Hurst & Co, London, £24.99) they explore how, in a technological version of the great Indian rope trick, this vast and complicated country grows despite the antics of its leaders.

These have been spectacular at times. The sale of 2G mobile spectrum in 2008 saw applicants kept waiting three months for details, only to be told at 2.45pm one day that they had to lodge deposits for letters of intent between 3.30pm and 4.30pm that same afternoon. The spectrum went to speculators for US$300 million who on-sold it for four times the price; it might have fetched up to US$40 billion through open auction, India’s auditor-general later reported.

Even so, the sector has sent a cascade of modernity throughout India, from telecom billionaire Sunil Mittal down to local entrepreneurs running phone towers, saile-rooms, and repair shops.

The key has been affordability. Low-cost handsets and pre-paid charge cards sold by trusted local shopkeepers, have given Indians the most economical service anywhere, with 50 rupees (88 cents) buying over 200 minutes of talk.

Boatmen on the Benares burning ghats get bookings, fishermen in Kerala sell their catch before landing, tribal people in remote parts of Orissa get news in their own language, all on their mobiles.

A mobile-money storage system called EKA gives villagers their first bank accounts, with money disbursed by participating shopkeepers. The similar M-PESA scheme in Kenya now channels a third of its GDP.

Health agencies are working on check-ups via cell phones. Welfare payments will be delivered directly through phone accounts, avoiding corrupt officials.

“The cell phone drew India’s people into relations with the record-keeping capitalist state more comprehensively than any previous mechanism or technology,” say Jeffrey and Doron.

There is an underside too: pornographic video-makers, scamsters, extortionists, and terrorists all make use of mobile phones.

And while the mobile phone is yet to create political and social revolution, Jeffrey and Doron point out that it has given the less powerful “vast new vistas of entertainment and a chance, however slight, to even up life’s odds a little.”

The mobile phone enormously helped the sweeping 2007 election win in Uttar Pradesh state of Mayawati Kumari’s party of former Untouchables. Smart phones allow citizens to video official or politician with sympathetic politicians and of official taking bribes or stuffing ballot boxes.

“The ability it gave to low-status people to communicate with each other and with sympathetic politicians and officials marked a profound break,” the authors write. “In the past there were words low-caste people should not hear and things they should not know. And to get close enough to a senior official or politician to expose wrong-doing or sloth was impossible for many people.”

The mobile phone gives men and women a private way to talk, evading tight social controls, to the horror of conservative elders.

The authors note that one caste organisation banned its unmarried girls from cell phones because “girls fall in love after they come into contact with boys through mobile phones”. New brides often have to surrender their cell phones, as part of a dismantling of their previous social networks. Recent horrific rapes in urban India get blamed on the taunting video image of the mobile phone’s girl who “danced, smiled, drank, smoked and wore skimpy clothes – all with a mobile phone in her hand.”

The effort to stop the tide is probably futile. Mobile phones give the young their own space and encourage people generally to do new things.

“As a disruptive tool, the cell phone suited democratic India admirably,” say Jeffrey and Doron.

Writing about the great Indian “mutiny” of 1857, the historian Christopher Bayley saw the newly-introduced universal and cheap postal system helping Indians organise their revolt and undermine the British rulers. The mobile phone may be setting off more mutinies under the present raj.

A long-time foreign correspondent in Asia, Hamish McDonald is Journalist in Residence at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific.
Our College has some big thinkers and some big ideas about Asia and the Pacific. We aim to research the region with greater depth and breadth than any other academic intuition in the English-speaking world.

Research

Unlike the great majority of other geographically-dedicated academic units around the world, the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific has preserved a strong commitment to academic disciplines. Our largest disciplinary strengths are in political science, economics, history, anthropology, law, archaeology, and linguistics - disciplines in which ANU scored five out of five (well above world standard) in the Australian Government’s Excellence in Research for Australia initiative.

In all of these fields we excel and enjoy international standing for combining disciplinary strength with geographic focus. Interdisciplinary research and teaching on particular themes is also important to the College; the largest cross-disciplinary research themes include environmental and resource management; culture and identity; regulation and governance.

In 2013 the College won an Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence, ARC funding for 10 Discovery Projects, one Laureate Fellowship, one Future Fellowship, three Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards, and three Linkage projects worth a total of A$37.5 million.

The College received research funding in 2013 for projects as diverse as ‘vote buying, pork barrelling and related phenomena’ in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand; the commercialisation of weddings and funerals in China; the effect of climate change and human activities on northern Australia; and how cross-border movements in the early to mid-20th century helped shape modern Korea. In 2013 the College was awarded 63 non-ARC grants and contracts worth $40.5 million.

ARC Laureate Fellows

The College is home to five ARC Laureate Fellows. Australian Laureate Fellows are researchers of international standing who play a significant leadership role in building Australia’s international competitive research capacity.

Professor Margaret Jolly
2010 to present
Historical interaction between Oceanic and Western constructs of the person

Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki
2012 to present
Grassroots movements and survival politics in Northeast Asia

Professor Sue O’Connor
2012 to present
Earliest colonisation of Island Southeast Asia and modern human dispersal

Professor Nicholas Evans
2013 to present
The diversity of human language

Tax and Transfer Policy Institute

A substantial proportion of the College’s research activity is directed towards shaping public policy in Australia, the region and internationally. In 2013 a new Tax and Transfer Policy Institute was created in the Crawford School of Public Policy following the announcement of a $31 million endowment in the 2013 Federal Budget. The Institute will undertake independent policy research on taxation matters, will aim to answer the big questions for the country and region about tax and transfer systems, and will be overseen by an Advisory Board chaired by Dr Ken Henry, the former Treasury Secretary.

AusAID Partnership

In 2013 AusAID signed an agreement to support the work conducted by the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program (SSGM). SSGM boasts a track record of producing high-quality, policy-relevant research and advanced analysis on social change, governance, development, politics and state-society relations in Melanesia, Timor-Leste and the wider Pacific. Their work provides the evidence base for better informed policy-making and programs that build the capacity of the region.

Strategic and defence studies

Founded in 1966, the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC) examines strategic and defence issues affecting the region, with a focus on East Asia and the Pacific. Research undertaken at the Centre covers the military, political, economic, environmental, scientific and technological aspects of strategic developments, including the control of military force and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The 2013 Global Go To Think Tanks Report named SDSC as Australia’s best university-based think tank and the 23rd best university think tank in the world.
PEACE BUILDER WINS MAJOR ACADEMIC PRIZE

A leading Asian studies scholar from the School of Culture, History and Language has won one of the academic world’s most prestigious awards – the academic laureate in the 2013 Fukuoka Prize.

Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki, was selected for her outstanding achievements in the field of Asian studies and her work on regional cooperation. Her award comes with a cash prize of 3 million yen (A$33,000).

It’s the first time the prize has gone to an Australian woman and only the third time an Australian-based academic has won.

Professor Morris-Suzuki is researching some of the biggest issues affecting East Asia, including conflict and reconciliation between Japan, China and the two Koreas, and human rights.

Speaking at the award ceremony where she received the prize from Fukuoka Deputy Mayor Mr Masanao Nakazono, an “overwhelmed” Professor Morris-Suzuki said she was enormously grateful and honoured.

“The announcement of this prize is a special delight because it comes from the city of Fukuoka,” she said. “When I started my academic career at the University of New England, the very first place where I went for prolonged fieldwork was Fukuoka,” she said.

“During that trip, I remember visiting Dazaifu in Fukuoka Prefecture, and realising for the first time how important Fukuoka and Dazaifu were in early Japanese history, and how central they were to a diplomatic and trade network that stretched from Japan to Korea, China and beyond.”

With East Asia now the world’s economic powerhouse and a place of enormous cultural diversity, it is essential countries in the region work together and not let rivalry or nationalism pull them apart.

“In one part of my recent research, I have been looking at local grassroots movements in Japan which work to build bridges between Japan and other Asian countries,” said Professor Morris-Suzuki. “Japan has a remarkably rich tradition of such movements, and their work has had a really profound impact on person-to-person, cross-border relationships in the region. “Yet for some reason this work does not get the recognition it deserves from mainstream media or politics, either in Japan or in other countries. So I’m really delighted to have the opportunity to highlight the work of these groups, and to make this a celebration of their ongoing achievements.”

In awarding the academic laureate to Professor Morris-Suzuki, the Fukuoka Prize committee noted her outstanding achievements as a scholar working with people at the “boundaries of society”.

“Professor Morris-Suzuki always focuses on people in the margins of society, those remote from power. In recent years, in addition to her academic work, she has been active as Convenor of the Asian Civic Rights Network, based in multicultural Australia,” read the award citation.

“From her chosen perspective in the margins of society, Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki has formulated a new way forward for regional cooperation, which can reach beyond the national borders, and has contributed to mutual understanding between Asian people. “She is a truly global intellectual, and for this reason, is very worthy of the Academic Prize of the Fukuoka Prize.”

Her win is the third time that an academic laureate has gone to a scholar from the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, with professors of Asian history Wang Gangyu and Anthony Reid winning in 1994 and 2002 respectively.

A five-year research project is helping to strengthen human rights regimes across the globe by examining the effects of ‘regulatory ritualism’, writes JAMES GIGGACHER.

Professor Hilary Charlesworth is concerned about why nations talk the talk but do not walk the walk when it comes to human rights.

The international law expert from the Regulatory Institutions Network in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific says that all too often human rights treaties are sidelined or ignored by countries once they have signed on the dotted line.

“As we’ve got lots and lots of treaties relating to many different sorts of human rights – torture, rights of children, rights of persons with disabilities – it would seem that we have a lot of standards,” says Charlesworth.

“However, the problem is how to implement and enforce them; countries are willing to sign on to human rights treaties but then often they just park the treaty somewhere. That’s a problem that many people have noted in the international human rights system.”

But now, Charlesworth is helping make sure that when it comes to nations’ human rights obligations, words translate into action.

She’s leading a five-year Australian Laureate Fellowship worth A$2.19 million to examine why countries sign up to human rights systems only to then ignore them. And while traditional legal research may not pay much attention to these types of questions, the ARC Laureate Fellow thinks she may already have part of the answer. It’s called ‘regulatory ritualism’.

“Regulatory ritualism, in the case of human rights, is the acceptance of human rights values, norms and rules, but the undermining of these through inaction,” explains Charlesworth.

Charlesworth says that it is a much more common response than an outright rejection of human rights standards and institutions.

“it is a technique of embracing the language of human rights precisely to deflect real human rights scrutiny and to avoid accountability for human rights abuses. Countries are willing to accept human rights treaty commitments to earn international approval, but they resist the changes that the treaty obligations require.”

And while regulatory ritualism means human rights regimes are increasingly and easily overlooked by their signatories, Charlesworth says she still has hope for the international system.

“I think the system is imperfect. But, I don’t want to say that it is failing, because I think that parts of it are working quite well. In particular one thing that I was looking at when I was in Geneva is a new mechanism of the Human Rights Council called the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which places the records of all UN members under human rights screening.

“Up until now the pattern has been that when we talk about human rights we are talking about the ‘bad guys’. So we’d put well-known human rights abusers under scrutiny – Cuba, North Korea – and most Western countries were considered to be above the fray. The really interesting thing about the UPR is its philosophy that every country needs to undergo a human rights review.

“I like the fact that all countries are being scrutinised in the same way. The biggest thing in the international human rights system is getting the political will among countries to actually push for human rights.”
Australia is increasingly looking to Asia – strategically, economically, politically, and culturally – and the graduates of tomorrow need to be ready to lead us in the Asian century. Our distinctive mission is to educate undergraduate students, providing them with in-depth contextual knowledge of the Asia Pacific region, and exposure from the broadest range of Asian language offerings available in Australia.

Undergraduate education

Asian studies

Our Asian studies students are equipped with language skills and knowledge of the region’s historical, political and cultural context. Students truly engage with the region through dedicated in-country programs in China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. The language skills, knowledge of the region and people-to-people connections acquired mean graduates are ready to lead Australia’s engagement with the region in the Asian century.

International security

Our international security program is taught by internationally-recognised experts at Australia’s foremost centre for strategic and security studies. The program develops students’ analytical skills and knowledge of the security challenges facing Asia and the Pacific. Students can also elect to study an Asia or Pacific language, as well as learn about the region in an international context.

Pacific studies

Australia’s understanding of Oceania is more important than ever thanks to a new, revitalised engagement with the region and an increasing number of Pacific standalone universities in Australia. AU is the only place in Australia where students can develop an in-depth understanding of the cultural, social, geographic, linguistic and political contexts of this diverse region with a specialised undergraduate program.

Asian and Pacific languages

ANU was ranked number one in Australia and 16 in the world for modern languages in the 2013 QS World University Rankings. At the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific we offer the highest number of Asia Pacific language programs outside of Asia. Courses are offered in Chinese, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Sanskrit, Pacific languages, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese.

International business

Our international business students specialising in Asia graduate as experts on the most influential economic region in the world, with the language skills and cultural understanding to match. The International Business program deals with the development, strategy and management of multinational enterprises in an increasingly complex and dynamically changing global context.

Regional engagement

The College actively supports student learning outside the conventional classroom. In 2013 more than 110 students from the College undertook mobility programs in a wide range of learning locations across Asia and the Pacific, participating in field schools, study tours, short courses, semester placements and our flagship ‘Year in Asia’ program.

HOMeward bound

From learning to live in ‘rubber time’ to crossing busy roads using her hands, undergraduate EMMA ROBERTS has returned from Indonesia with not only new skills, but a new place to call home.

My recent trip to Indonesia forced me to contemplate a difficult question – did my trip mean that I was leaving home in Australia, or returning home to Indonesia? This is a question that I still don’t know the exact answer to. But what I do know is that when I stepped off the plane in Semarang, central Java, everything instantly felt familiar.

This was my second time completing an ANU ‘in-country’ language course at Satya Wacana Christian University (UKSW) in Salatiga, Central Java. The first time I studied at UKSW I arrived in Indonesia with no language skills whatsoever and no idea of what to expect. However, within six short weeks my host ibu (mum) felt like a real mother and Salatiga had become a second home.

I soon felt confident conversing in Indonesian while buying fruit at the market or directing a taxi driver. I’d begun to adopt Indonesian habits such as crossing a busy road by just walking in front of the cars and waving my hand at them, or arriving at my appointments half an hour late in accordance with the local concept of jam karet (rubber time).

Life in Salatiga felt new and exciting, yet somehow also so natural and familiar… until it was time to return to Australia.

At first it was very difficult adjusting to life back in Canberra. Everything seemed so expensive and ordered compared to Indonesia, and the language classes felt so dull after being able to practice by going on a shopping spree or planning weekend trips at the travel agent.

I eventually managed to re-familiarise myself with my Australian surroundings, but nevertheless I decided to return to Salatiga and continue my language studies. I couldn’t have made a better decision.

My arrival in Indonesia this time was very different to my first time around, because I now had some understanding of the language, culture and people of Indonesia.

I stayed with the same homestay family that I lived with during my first trip, especially requested because of my host mother’s amazing cooking ability (and kind heart). The food in Indonesia was definitely one of the highlights. As a vegetarian, during both trips I absolutely fell in love with tempe, a soybean product similar to tofu, which unfortunately is not sold in Australia.

The language classes themselves were great. The teachers at UKSW are so passionate about making learning as interactive as possible and consequently class excursions – which ranged from casual cafe visits to interviewing local fishermen about the effects of swamp water hyacinth on the environment – were definitely no rarity.

So back to where I began my dilemma about whether Indonesia or Australia is home. Though I have lived in Australia for most of my life, I experienced a feeling of fulfilment and purpose in Indonesia that I have not felt in Australia. I can definitely see myself returning to Indonesia in the foreseeable future for the Year in Asia study program; but also later to build a career. And while Australia may be home now, I am almost certain that Indonesia will be my home sometime in the future. Sampai ketemu lagi, Indonesia!

Emma Roberts is in her second year of a combined Bachelor of Asia Pacific Studies/ Bachelor of Laws program. She recently won an Ethel Towar Scholarship to complete in-country language study at Satya Wacana Christian University.
From the front-page of The New York Times to finding her ancestral home, SUE-LIN WONG’S two years studying in China taught her things you couldn’t learn from a textbook.

“I went to work in the morning and came back to a flattened house.

“With absolutely no warning and in the span of less than one day, my home was completely demolished. All I was left with were the clothes that I wore to work that day.”

These are the words of Wei Yihsia, who was huddled with me and four other locals one spring evening in her new, makeshift shack just outside Tainjin, one of China’s largest cities. They echoed like the empty streets of her destroyed town, which had been demolished as part of China’s race to urbanise.

I was interviewing Wei for an article that would be published on the front page of The New York Times; part of a series examining the largest migration in human history—the creation of China’s new super cities.

Two years ago, I could not have imagined that my Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Award would lead me to far flung reaches of China listening to farmers, migrant workers, government officials and urban Chinese share their experiences about this massive change taking place in one of the world’s fastest developing countries.

I traversed the country for this series of articles—from the manufacturing hub of coastal Zhejiang province to the heart of China’s farmland in Anhui and Henan provinces; and up to large, rural cooperatives in Shanxi province. In August 2011, I started my scholarship journey by embarking on the most intense year of academic study in my life at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

There I took four hours of intensive Chinese language class per day in classes with no more than three students. I studied ancient Chinese poetry waxing lyrical about the importance of hard work, debated the difference between sex-related slang in Chinese and English and memorised thousands of new words.

After a year of language study, I began a year of internships at The New York Times—a week after the paper’s Chinese language website was launched. To date, I have written 12 articles in both English and Chinese and I have contributed research to another 20.

I was part of stories that took me to enormous dog markets, non-arable wasteland that was converted into the world’s largest eco-city, and through Beijing’s ancient alleyways.

I travelled through state media for stories about the China-India border conflict, devastating factory fires and policy changes related to military license plates. I learnt how to use Chinese social media, compiling hundreds of posts about land grabs that were transformed into an interactive feature for a lead story.

While most foreign news bureaus in China consist of one or two correspondents, I have had the privilege of working in an office with over 70 staff including some of the best Chinese and non-Chinese journalists, editors, researchers and photographers in the world.

But it wasn’t all study and hard work.

One of my university professors said that if he were to give me a single piece of advice about how to make the most of my scholarship, it would be “ride as many different horses as you can, up and down and across China.”

So I crisscrossed this vast nation, sometimes at high speed, sometimes at a nudge.

I travelled with a Chinese tour group to see the famous terracotta warriors in Xi’an, froze with friends visiting from Australia in -20 degree Celsius temperatures at the ice-festival in Harbin, and gorged myself on seafood and famous local beer in Qingdao.

One of the most meaningful experiences was finding my grandparents’ ancestral villages in Fujian and Guangdong provinces. In the 1930s, my paternal grandfather left his village in China for Malaysia in search of a better life. He planned to earn enough money in Malaysia to return home a few years later. History dictated a different end to that dream.

Over the course of my scholarship, I visited my father’s side of the family three times and my mother’s side twice. I met hundreds of relatives in my ancestral village, where 40,000 of us share the same surname. I stood, awestruck, in our clan temple and was told that I’m the 40th generation of a family that can trace its history as far back as 888AD.

Every single day I was humbled by the Chinese language and realism that learning Chinese will be a lifelong endeavour. I learnt more than I ever thought I would about topics as diverse as Chinese language, culture and society, journalism and life. Most of what I learnt came from making hilarious, often mortifying, mistakes.

But one aspect of my time in China has stood out, towering above everything else. It was the people I met and the friends I made who shaped most of my favourite memories.

Late night chats with my Chinese housemate about the realities of being a gay man in China. Sleepovers with my closest Chinese girlfriends where I would try and explain what it means to me to be an overseas Chinese in China.

Debates with my great Chinese teacher who became an even better friend about the connection between happiness and having choices. Dancing on sofas at karaoke until the early hours of the morning with friends. Extended lunches and dinners with my colleagues in the basements of Beijing’s seemingly endless choice of malls. Auditing Marxism and Leninism classes in the Tsinghua Art Department with my friends from the Rural Advocacy Society on campus. Hanging out with my second cousins in our ancestral village and eating food that reminded me of home.

It is these deep, human connections that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Sue-Lin Wong has just returned from China where she was based as a Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Award scholar from 2011 to 2013. She is studying Asia Pacific studies and law at ANU.
The College’s education profile is heavily weighted towards graduate students. Our professionally focused degrees are taught in the Asia Pacific context to meet the growing demand of business, government and non-government organisations for expertise on the region.

**Graduate coursework**

**Anthropology and development**
Our specialist program teaches technical anthropological skills in the development context helping development practitioners answer the question “How can I do more to help?”

**Archaeological science**
Our renowned team of teaching staff, including ANU Laureate Fellowship recipient Professor Sue O’Connor, actively involves students in their fieldwork projects across Australia and the Asia Pacific region to help them hone their archaeological survey, analysis, microscopy and GIS skills.

**Asia Pacific studies**
Our Asia Pacific studies program equips students with specialist knowledge across a wide range of language and non-language fields of study essential for expert understanding of the rapid social, political and economic changes taking place in the Asia Pacific region.

**Diplomacy**
Our diplomacy program equips students with skills to represent their country or organisation at an international level through teaching on applied and theoretical diplomacy, including international law, international relations, political science, migration and human rights, UN diplomacy, international negotiation, conflict resolution and nuclear non-proliferation.

**Economics**
The College offers two economics programs - a policy-oriented program of applied economic theory and econometrics, with a focus on international and development economics; and a program approaching sustainable resource management from an economics perspective.

**Environment and development**
Our environmental and development programs equip professionals to tackle the growing challenges of climate change and sustainable resource management.

**International relations**
Equipped with the skills to succeed in modern international relations, and with one of the most respected degrees in international affairs in the world, our international relations students go on to excel in government, international organisations, NGOs, media groups and businesses throughout Asia, the Pacific and beyond.

**Linguistics**
ANU has the largest concentration of linguists in the southern hemisphere, and over 50 years’ experience documenting little-known languages of the Asia Pacific region. Our linguistics program develops students understanding of the nature of language equipping them with an understanding of human communication and advanced problem-solving and analytical skills.

**National security policy**
ANU is the only place in Australia where graduate students can study a national security policy program specifically designed to meet the challenges faced by policy professionals active in Australia and the region. The program provides students with a broad contextual perspective and deep understanding of the current and emerging issues facing the national security community.

**Policy and governance**
The College’s policy and governance expertise covers a range of specialisations, including development policy, economic policy, policy analysis and environmental law. Our programs equip students with the practical skills to succeed in senior government or government-related careers.

**Strategic studies**
With Asia transformed by the rise of China and India, and a world preoccupied with security issues, the current century has been defined by global strategic challenges. Through our security studies program students acquire the analytical frameworks to understand the complexity of this contemporary, strategic environment, and Australia’s place in it.

**Translation**
Taught by experts in the field, including Professor John Mintoff, world-renowned for his English translations of Chinese classics, our translation program focuses on teaching the practice of literary translation between English and Asian languages including Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian and Korean, along with the history of translation and the study of a number of critical issues in the field.

Meet Adele Zubrzycka, a Master of Archaeological Science student who loves getting her hands dirty to piece together ancient mysteries.

As a child, Adele Zubrzycka was inspired to become an archaeologist by National Geographic, but she says the next generation of archaeologists will more likely be Time Team fans.

“All archaeologists love Time Team!” she says of the British TV series. “Even though the reality is not quite like the show. It’s much slower. You need a lot of patience.”

Adele says she learned this lesson while at a field school in Vanuatu for her Master of Archaeological Science program.

“It was a field school set in a tiny remote village in the middle of nowhere. We were there for two weeks, at an old Lapita site, and we spent the two weeks digging pits, understanding the formation of the site, and the history of the site.

“It is hard work. That’s one of the most important parts about fieldwork: you realise it’s not easy. It’s physically hard, and it’s long hours. We worked every day from 8am to 5pm, in the hot sun, and there was an earthquake! A really big one as well!”

But, not even an earthquake could turn her off archaeology.

“It’s worth it,” she says. “It’s about piecing together a mystery. You have a question and you can somehow answer it, but in a way which is always elusive.”

One of the most rewarding parts of the field trip, she says, was bringing back sediment samples and analysing them in laboratories at ANU.

“We looked at seeds, pollen and charcoal to get a better idea of how it all works. Being out in the field is the most interesting part of it - it’s the reason a lot of archaeologists do what they do - but most of the important work is actually done when you’re back in the lab.”

It is this hands-on, research-focused learning environment which originally drew Adele to ANU, and which has since inspired her to change her career path.

“It’s a very practical program, with many practical assessments.

“All the courses are directed towards research. In every lecture they’re talking about what researchers are doing at ANU and what you can do to help them, and the opportunities there to do research in the field.

“I started off wanting to get into consulting, and now I’m more interested in research. After doing a really interesting cultural heritage elective course, I want to look more into the cultural heritage aspect of archaeology.”

To this end, Adele is traveling to India in her study break to pursue an internship with a conservation firm, and also to investigate options for a PhD.

Adele didn’t come to archaeology from a science background, having majored in history for her undergraduate degree, but she says the “great teachers” and inter-collegiate structure of the master’s program accommodates students from any background. The only necessary requirement, she says, is “an imaginative mind.”
**Silent Savours**

PhD scholar Belinda Thompson wants to shine a light on not-for-profit hospitals and clinics in developing countries, reports BELINDA CRANSTON.

Australian obstetrician and gynaecologist Catherine Hamlin is legendary in the health care sector for providing free fistula repair surgery to poor women suffering from childbirth injuries. She and her team at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, Ethiopia, have received numerous awards, including accolades from the Global Health Council and the United Nations agency UNFPA. But what about others who pour their energy and passion into hospitals and clinics in developing countries around the world, some of them for free, without recognition by anyone in “officialdom.”

Crawford School of Public Policy PhD scholar Belinda Thompson is asking that very question in her thesis topic, Silent Savours. The reality, she says, is that most of the work done by non-government, not-for-profit hospitals and clinics that provide services to the poor is invisible.

“The World Health Organization doesn’t have a list of these organizations,” she says. “Most governments don’t even have a list of the ones operating in their country.”

“They operate on the smell of an oily rag. They get no real government funding.”

Focusing on Asia, Thompson has made it her mission to compile her own list of such facilities, noting their location, the people who devote their time to them, the services they provide, and how many patients they treat.

Her research to date has revealed a tapestry of styles and services—some are religious, some are not. Some offer surgical care, while others offer primary treatment.

In Bangladesh, for example, there are the Lifebuoy floating hospitals that travel down the banks of the country’s vast rivers, taking hospital care to people directly.

“They provide a service in a sterile, surgical environment,” Thompson says.

There are also “personality” hospitals, which form around a passionate individual, like that run by Dr Dan Murphy, who operates the Bairo Pite clinic in Timor Leste.

Because many of the facilities that provide not-for-profit services to the poor do not have a presence on the Internet, Thompson is relying on word-of-mouth to track some of them down.

Having just started her PhD, she’s yet to set benchmarks determining which hospitals and clinics she will analyse. “I might look at how many beds they have, or how many patients they see,” she says.

“I’m not going to be able to put together an exhaustive list of hospitals. I hope others add to it.”

Seeing positive results of her work has always been important to Thompson. As a reporter for the Manly Daily, on Sydney’s northern beaches, she became aware of cracks in the NSW mental health system while covering various court cases.

“I covered a lot of interesting stories, and learned a lot about the way the NSW health system works,” she says. She had earlier worked for a former NSW politician.

“While you can make a difference working in politics, you can make a much bigger difference by being a journalist,” she says.

“You manage to get some impact because media coverage often gets people to do things that they would never have done otherwise. And that for me was a very powerful motivator for me to go into journalism.”

She later worked with not-for-profit injury prevention experts, The Alliance for Safe Children, in Thailand and Bangladesh, followed by a stint as Director of Corporate Affairs for the Hospital of Hope Timor Leste.

“I’ve seen how desperately these not-for-profit healthcare services are needed,” she says. By compiling a comprehensive list of not-for-profit hospitals and large-scale clinics in developing countries, Thompson is hopeful a central agency will in turn act as a coordinating body that will further their capacity.

“It could be someone who is based at the World Health Organization, or someone funded by AusAid, or a US aid group,” she says. As such, the facilities could cut back on costs.

“If you are only able to order 100 syringes at a time, you are going to be paying the absolute top rate,” she says as an example.

“Whereas if all of these organisations had budgets in place, and were able to do a bulk order of syringes that were distributed amongst them, they would get a lot more bang for their buck. I think it would be relatively easy to administer that.”

She would also like to see a comprehensive website containing details about the hospitals and clinics, so that their needs can be better communicated.

“This would better enable specialist medical staff interested in working for the facilities to decipher if they can be of real help,” Thompson adds.

“Literally, these people are saving lives and we need to do all we can to support them.”

Professor Andrew Walker
Acting Dean, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific
Alumni 11,467 globally
Where our students & alumni call home

Asia
757 Students | 2,768 Alumni

Pacific
73 Students | 369 Alumni
The decline of China and India

China and India might be regarded as this century’s rising powers, but in one key arena – the globalisation of research and development (R&D) – their leverage vis-à-vis the United States is declining. As China and India strive to become ‘technology powers’, both governments have courted foreign firms to set up R&D centres on their soil, and US firms are easily the biggest investors in this regard. For corporate America, however, these investments represent only a small fraction of global R&D spending. The result is ‘asymmetric interdependence’: China and India need the US more than it needs them.

Dr Andrew Kennedy

When is trust more important than money?

Recent literature suggests that citizens in emergent democracies distinguish between support for the government and support for democracy. Analysing this claim for Asia’s democratising nations of Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea and the Philippines reveals findings that help us understand democratic development. Firstly, it’s not surprising that government approval is found to be linked to economic performance across all these nations. When it comes to winning votes, it’s the economy, stupid. But secondly, and more interestingly, economic performance does not correlate with democratic support. When it comes to democracy itself, political trust outweighs economic conditions. The key to democratic development, then, lies in political trust.

Dr Fiona Yap

Decentralised conservation: money talks

There is a general perception that democratisation leads to conservation, and so it follows that the global trend towards more democratic and decentralised systems of government would be good news for the environment. But in even the most democratic regimes voters at the polling booth are likely to put their financial interests ahead of the environment, choosing their political leaders accordingly. To improve conservation, decentralised systems must take these financial motivations into consideration, with the appropriate transfers and payments for environmental services being incorporated into their very design.

Professor Luca Tacconi

The murky waters of international conflict and cooperation are set to become a little clearer after Crawford School PhD scholar Paula Hanasz won a Prime Minister’s Endeavour Award.

Hanasz was one of the winners in the 2014 Prime Minister’s Australia Asia Postgraduate Scholarships category in the awards. The win means she receives essential funding to allow her to undertake fieldwork next year in India, Nepal and Bhutan. Hanasz was one of a number of ANU staff and students to win prizes in this year’s awards.

The awards – offered through the Department of Education – aim to help international citizens undertaked study, research and development in Australia, and provide scholarships to Australians to do study, research and professional development overseas.

Hanasz’s PhD thesis looks at the complex network of water sharing arrangements between the countries of South Asia, and questions whether talk of ‘water wars’ between Asia’s nations is overstated. “You can imagine what a thrill it is to win such an award, and it’s a huge relief financially,” she said.

“I’m lucky that my PhD topic dovetails with an increasing Australian interest in the issues surrounding water diplomacy in South Asia. The Endeavour Awards support research that aligns with Australia’s strategic objectives, and I was able to mount a case that my thesis will make a significant contribution to the body of knowledge about how water conflicts and cooperation develop.”

“It’s an honour to have my intellectual interests recognised as something worth pursuing and validated as something of importance to Australia.”

The scholarship will see Hanasz spend six months as a Visiting Fellow at The Observer Research Foundation, a prestigious think-tank in New Delhi, conduct extensive research in Nepal and Bhutan, and attend World Water Week, the premier international conference on hydro-politics, which is held in Sweden.

But the awards offer more than a stipend, international internship opportunities and overseas fieldwork, as Hanasz explained. “The Endeavour Awards have an active and illustrious alumni network which I can’t wait to become part of,” she said.

Article by Martyn Pearce.

Water Win

WATER WIN

Photo by World Bank Photo Collection on flickr.

The HC Coombs Policy Forum, a strategic collaboration between ANU and the Australian Government which undertakes exploratory and experimental work at the interface of government and academia.

Crawford School is also responsible for educating, training and informing many of the region’s policymakers, who strive daily to improve the well-being of their respective nations.

The School is based on a simple concept – good policy leads to better outcomes.

Crawford School of Public Policy is the University, Australia and the region’s gateway for public policy research, teaching and outreach.

Home to scholars like Professor Bruce Chapman (the architect of Australia’s higher education scheme) and Professor Peter Drysdale (the brains behind the Asia Pacific Economic Community), Crawford School prides itself on its robust engagement and partnerships with governments in Australia and the region.

Crawford School of Public Policy is the University, Australia and the region’s key area as one of this century’s rising powers, but in one key arena – the globalisation of research and development (R&D) – their leverage vis-à-vis the United States is declining.

As China and India strive to become ‘technology powers’, both governments have courted foreign firms to set up R&D centres on their soil, and US firms are easily the biggest investors in this regard. For corporate America, however, these investments represent only a small fraction of global R&D spending. The result is ‘asymmetric interdependence’: China and India need the US more than it needs them.

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Article by Martyn Pearce.
International donors should focus on the long-term drivers of vulnerability so communities can rebuild their livelihoods after natural disasters, says an expert from Crawford School of Public Policy.

In 2004 a wave of destruction swept across much of Southeast and South Asia. A massive tsunami, caused by an earthquake off the west coast of Sumatra, crashed into the shores of countries bordering the Indian Ocean. One of the places devastated was the Indonesia region of Aceh.

Dr John McCarthy from the Crawford School of Public Policy has just completed a major study of community livelihood projects implemented in Aceh in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami. The project focused on the lasting effects that aid assistance had on local livelihoods in villages eight years after the disaster.

The tsunami devastated villages along the coast and in some communities took the lives of up to 60 per cent of villagers. As the scale of the destruction became evident, the world mobilised to provide aid and assistance to the devastated communities to help them rebuild. The disaster relief program is the biggest in history and in the process, more than US$7 billion was spent.

But McCarthy says that despite the good intentions, the projects left behind sorrowful levels of long-term susceptibility and food insecurity in the communities. The project revealed that the villagers had gained from rebuilding infrastructure, but once the emergency response had passed, up to 50 per cent of households were left highly vulnerable.

“After the tsunami the focus was very much on emergency assistance. This was done particularly well, but there was little done to address the drivers of long term vulnerability,” he says.

McCarthy says that spending less money and more time helping villages to rebuild their livelihoods could have more long-lasting results for development in areas like Aceh.

“To rebuild communities we really need to look at the classical problems of rural development, the things that undermine agriculture and community livelihoods. “If we engaged more comprehensively with a long-term framework then we will see more sustainable forms of income for people in these communities.”

According to McCarthy, the research illustrates that it might be time to rethink the way we provide assistance following natural disasters.

“The major temptation was to spend fast and furiously – to be seen to be getting things done by spending the money. “Maybe donors need to scale down their ambitions by thinking in simple terms about how we can help them reconstruct these livelihoods over the longer term. “This would take patience, more strategic thinking about the underlying problems, and more engagement to support communities over the longer term rather than coming in with large amounts of money that communities become dependent on in the short term,” he says.

Article by Amelia Bidgood.
The School of Culture, History and Language (CHL) brings together over 100 academics dedicated to investigating and learning with and about the people, languages, and lands of Asia and the Pacific.

Its world-recognized research covers the fields of archaeology and natural history, anthropology, gender, media and cultural studies, history, linguistics, and South, Southeast and East Asian studies.

CHL is home to four of the College’s five Australian Research Council Laureate Fellows and hosts a newly-minted A$28 million ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language.

With more than 1,000 undergraduate, graduate and PhD students, CHL is the nation’s centre of education on Asia and the Pacific – equipping graduates with the knowledge, skills and hands-on experience that will ensure Australia successfully navigates the ‘Asian century’.

Asian language learners not going native

Western learners of Asian languages often resist speaking as native speakers do. For example, they might deliberately choose different address terms, or fail the norms for when and how to apologise, or thank, or complain. They do so because their self-identity within their second-language culture – such as strongly identifying as an outsider – makes those norms seem irrelevant or distasteful to them. As a result, individual learners vary widely in their progress when it comes to this dimension of the language.

Dr Tim Hassall

Japan: citizen science vs nuclear crisis

In a barn near Fukushima’s exclusion zone, farmers mix organic fertilisers, looking for recipes to protect their crops from radiation. In the backroom of a gift-shop, local volunteers use sophisticated equipment to measure levels of radioactivity in food. The crisis in Fukushima number one nuclear plant continues to unfold, and science lacks answers to key questions about the disaster’s effects on health. Now, Fukushima’s ordinary citizens are taking science into their own hands, helping to unravel mysteries that experts failed to solve. Their experiments are shifting understandings of radiation and health, and of the relationship between science and society.

Professor Tessa Morris-Suzuki

Death and dissolution in the Pacific

In Pacific anthropology, it has long been assumed that funerary rites – the largest-scale rituals across the region – serve to repair the social relationships torn apart by the death of a relative. In fact, their function is the reverse. Funerary rites actually complete the dissolution of social ties so that new life and new social relations can begin. In this view, life is a process of building connections with others, which are then dismantled with death. This offers a new view of cosmic relevance to religion in Oceania and elsewhere.

Professor Mark Mosko

H O O K,  L I N E  A N D  T H I N K E R

The ground-breaking discovery of the world’s oldest evidence for marine fishing in East Timor has not just re-written the history books – it could shed new light on how humans first reached Australian shores, writes JAMES GIGGACHER.

In a small, shallow cave on the far northeastern tip of East Timor, lie the leftovers of possibly the most remarkable human meals ever consumed.

And while food scraps may normally only excite those of us with an unusual love for washing the dishes, these remains are providing plenty of food for thought about some of the earliest humans, their ability to adapt and their success in populating this vast blue planet of ours.

Revealed in the deepest part of the excavation were the 42,000-year-old bones of sharks and tuna dragged out of the nearby crystal blue waters by human hands.

The discovery, made in the Jerimalai cave by Professor Sue O’Connor, an archaeologist in the School of Culture, History and Language, is the strongest evidence yet that humans were plugging the deep blue sea for big fish millennia upon millennia ago and much earlier than previously thought.

“The site that we studied featured more than 38,000 fish bones from some 2,800 individual fish dating back 42,000 years,” says O’Connor.

“What made the discovery so unusual is the age of the hook, because fish hooks in Southeast Asia are supposed to post-date Austronesian expansion about 4,000 years ago. So what we have here is the oldest evidence for pelagic fishing as well as the oldest fish hook found anywhere in the world.

And while the hooks don’t seem suitable for pelagic fishing, it is possible that other types of hooks were being made at the same time. It’s still not entirely clear what method the occupants of Jerimalai used to capture the pelagic fish or even the shallow water species.

“But, tuna can be caught in purse seines, which are only suitable for pelagic species,” O’Connor adds.

Made from shell, the hook was made between 23,000 and 16,000 years ago.

“This is, we believe, the earliest known example of a fish hook and shows that our ancestors were skilled crafts people as well as fishermen,” says O’Connor.

“The discovery has long puzzled Australian historians; by what means modern humans reached Australia.

“The first people reached Australia 50,000 years ago and probably earlier,” says O’Connor.

“But, this has always been a bit of a conundrum because people have looked at Australia and said that indigenous people in Australia did not have very sophisticated maritime skills – there is no evidence of them using big boats and they were only using little canoes and rafts on the coasts at the time Europeans reached them.

“So how people got here at such an early date has always been puzzling. These new finds from Jerimalai cave go a long way to solving the puzzle.”

It’s this level of technological sophistication which O’Connor thinks can help answer another question that has long puzzled archaeologists and historians; by what means modern humans reached Australia.

But, “it is too early to say when the first people arrived on the mainland of Australia,” O’Connor says.

GGA
Cosmetics and surgery are putting a new face on male beauty in South Korea, writes BEINDA CRANSTON.

A fresh faced, lipstick-wearing boy, poses alongside an aqua blue bra. No, he’s not preparing for Sydney’s iconic Mardi Gras. He is actor So-Ji Sub, one of many male celebrities appearing in glossy print advertisements across South Korea.

Such is the rise of male beauty in the East Asian nation, as much as 90 per cent of billboards, cinema and in-store cosmetic advertisements in central Seoul now feature pretty young men rather than women, says ANU College of Asia and the Pacific academic Dr Roald Maliangkay.

The socio-cultural phenomenon, otherwise known as Klevinnnam, or gorgeous guy, has led to boys as young as 14 experimenting with make-up, while guys in their late teens and early 20s regularly apply foundation, lipstick, gloss and eye shadow before hitting night clubs.

About a year ago, beautiful men also started appearing in lingerie advertisements.

According to Maliangkay, who has been looking at the rise of male beauty as part of his research on Korean popular culture, the trend is not linked to homosexuality.

“They are not considered gay, they are considered savvy,” Maliangkay, who lived in Seoul off and on from 1988 to 2000, says.

Many embrace the look after finishing school and fulfilling compulsory military service commitments.

“They’ve been through two years of rigorous training, which is totally macho,” says Maliangkay.

“And they come back and want to live a normal life and be a consumer. They are considered cool because they have been in the army. That is the group that’s interested in being a Klevinnnam.”

In a culture where “everybody” commented on each other’s looks, allowing guys to feel free to tell other guys whether they looked good or otherwise, looking “nerdy” wasn’t socially acceptable.

“What you find is that those who can afford it can increase their self-value. In a sense, beauty has become a commodity,” explains Maliangkay.

The country’s obsession with looks has led to South Korea having the highest rate of cosmetic procedures per capita in the world.

“Koreans genuinely believe it’s really attractive to get cosmetic surgery,” says Maliangkay.

“Part of being a successful citizen, of getting a job, involves looking good.”

The phenomenon can be traced back to the late 1990s, when the South Korean government relaxed its ban on Japanese cultural goods, exposing locals to new views of male beauty, including popular comics featuring effeminate-looking characters.

At the same time, Korean pop acts showcasing catchy tunes, synchronised dance moves, trendsetting fashion and flawless faces, became widespread.

Before long, big eyes, high noses and slim jawlines – features not inherently Korean – were deemed desirable.

Much of the work is done in Seoul’s Gangnam district, where products and procedures are of such a high standard Western tourists are also flocking to the famous district which has been parodied by global pop sensation PSY.

But there is a catch to being part of the phenomenon.

For the glamorous young men appearing in glossy advertisements, it is necessary to appear to be single and available to their targeted female audiences.

If they are photographed with a girlfriend and the image is published, it could lead to them securing less work promoting cosmetics, says Maliangkay.

Maliangkay has a more pressing concern about the rise of South Korea’s cosmetic surgery industry however. He predicts perceptions of beauty in South Korea will change in around 10 years, when people would perhaps favour something “a little more special.”

“Everyone starts to look the same. I think, at one point, we will start to get bored with it.”

“Koreans genuinely believe it’s really attractive to get cosmetic surgery”

26 Asia and the Pacific at ANU

27 ANU College of Asia & the Pacific
G20 SOS: seeking urgent PR makeover

As Australia prepares to host the G20 leaders in 2016, questions remain over the effectiveness of the organisation. Is it accountable to its own agreements? Is it even a legitimate entity? Like all floundering causes, what the G20 needs is an ‘outreach strategy’. It needs to expand our understanding of global politics, international relations and the Asia Pacific’s only centre specialising in diplomatic practice, the Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy. Its State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program hosts the world’s largest collection of Pacific expertise, while the Department of Political and Social Change brings together world-class political and social change expertise on the politics and societies of Asia.

Asia’s middle-income peasants

The popular image of Asian peasantry living under the yoke of landlords and money lenders, and resistant to any intrusion by the state, is no longer a useful one for understanding the political dynamic in much of the region. Instead, today’s peasantry, freed from the burden of food insecurity, are more likely to engage with sources of power than oppose them, and to resist withdrawal by the state rather than inclusion. This new social contract between Asia’s middle-income peasants and the state represents a fascinating shift in the political society of the region.

Professor Andrew Walker

Peace with a price tag

In the India-Myanmar borderlands, governments seek to buy peace from rebellious ethnic groups. Those who surrender expect cash payments for laying down their arms. The Indian government puts significant resources into paying off its enemies: their weapons and operational knowledge all come with a price tag. With a big lump-sum grant followed by a monthly stipend, cashing in as a former rebel can be a lucrative option. The Indian authorities have struggled to make these incentives work, whereas in Myanmar there has been more success with crude economic transfers. Paying for peace makes for inconsistent investment returns.

Dr Nicholas Farrelly

Malaitan born Justin, one of the ex-militants interviewed by Allen, was forced to leave his home area in search of work after finishing just three years of secondary education. One of many Malaitans to do so at a young age, he believes the trend is due to “deliberate government neglect” of Malaita. In the late 1990s, he found work at the Gold Ridge mine, east of Honiara, but was driven from the site in late 1998, because of Guale militant activity. He relocated to Honiara, where he met a man who told him Guale militants had forced him to have sexual intercourse with his daughter. Spurred by the man’s tale, Justin took it upon himself to protect Malaitans not only from the Guale militants, “but also from an incompetent government and a hamstringing police force.”

“Justin and other former members of the militant group Malaita Eagle Force, believe that through their actions they saved not only Malaita but also Honiara and, in fact, the entire nation,” says Allen. On the other side of the conflict was Jonwin, who was born in 1978 on the “remote and rugged Weather Coast of Guadalcanal”.

“Like so many of his contemporaries Jonwin completed only primary school and three years of secondary school before he was pushed out of the education system,” says Allen. “For several years Jonwin worked in various menial jobs in Honiara, on the plantations, and in the logging camps, occasionally returning to his home village for a stint. What he saw in his travels made him increasingly aware of the relative deprivation and underdevelopment of the Weather Coast and its people.”

According to Allen, Jonwin and his friends became increasingly frustrated … and these frustrations boiled over.

“Jonwin and his friends believed that they were left with no choice but to take up arms in order to demonstrate their legitimate grievances to the government and to fight for their rights,” he says. “This is their story.”

Greed and Grevance is available from University of Hawai’i Press.

A new book on the violence and disorder that gripped the Solomon Islands between 1998 and 2003 explores the motives of ex-militants from both ethnic groups involved in the civil conflict.

It’s the first time a study of the views of ex-combatants has been undertaken.

Fighting broke out in late 1998 between the Guales, the indigenous population living on the main island, Guadalcanal, and migrant Malaitans from the neighbouring island, when the Guadalcanal Militia began forcing the Malaitans out, accusing them of taking land and jobs.

Now, perceptions of what followed is portrayed through the eyes of 29 men who belonged to rival militant groups, in a new book, Greed and Grevance by School of International Political and Strategic Studies academic Dr Matthew Allen.

The result of extensive fieldwork in the country, the book goes beyond conventional views that the conflict was caused by greed and criminality, instead arguing that it was fundamentally political in nature.

“Most policy commentators have tended to attribute the origins of the conflict on Guadalcanal to competition between indigenous Guales and Malaitan settlers over land and employment opportunities,” says Allen, who is based in the School’s State, Society and Governance in Melanesia program.

“My motivation for this study was to demonstrate that the men who joined rival militant groups during the conflict were fighting for ‘something’ and that this something can be properly explained and understood only by looking at the relationship between culture, politics, ecology and history.”

The research looks at the ex-militants’ individual views on the history of the Solomons and their peoples’ respective places in the country’s experiences of colonisation, development and nation-building.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR STORY

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Greed and Grevance is available from University of Hawai’i Press.
One academic’s recent trip to North Korea reveals that life inside one of the world’s most secretive states is a lot more ‘normal’ than you might expect, reports BELINDA CRANSTON.

A young girl eating ice-cream. City balconies decorated with flowers and plants. People with pets, people having love affairs, people getting drunk. Proud family members watching on as ordinary children put in average performances at school sporting carnivals.

There’s a lot more normal life going on in North Korea than outsiders imagine, says ANU Korea expert Dr Emma Campbell, who returned from a six-day tour of the Northeast Asian ‘Hermit Kingdom’ in July 2013.

In a public lecture at ANU, Campbell — who is based at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific — recalled scenes far removed from those beamed around the world when bellicose leader Kim Jong-un threatened to launch nuclear strikes against the United States and South Korea.

She was particularly touched by the love she saw between a father and daughter holding hands while walking down the street; “her so excited about something that might have happened at school; him so proud and interested as he listened.”

When Campbell first visited the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the mid-90s, during the country’s devastating famine, she went no further than Pyongyang.

This time round, her itinerary exposed her to the northeast cities of Rajin-Sonbong, Chonjin, Kyongsong and the Chibosian region.

“A lot has changed since the mid-90s. People are no longer starving,” she said of the trip. Former High Court judge Michael Kirby is leading a probe into human rights abuses in the Hermit Kingdom, including allegations of torture, prison camps and starvation.

Campbell makes no excuses for atrocities including media reports last August of well-known performers being executed by a firing squad over accusations of violating pornographic laws.

Ordered by Kim Jong-un, the all-girl Moranbong band and relatives of the deceased were reportedly forced to watch on.

Campbell is also highly critical of North Korea’s nuclear activities and rocket program, and by the “cult of personality” that still grips the country.

“I abhor the development of the nuclear weapons program when so many people in North Korea are in need,” Campbell told the packed auditorium.

At a kindergarten in Chonjin, she saw a sign at the entrance to the school that read “thank you dear general Kim Jong-un.”

But the propaganda, human rights abuses and nuclear program tell only part of the North Korean story, and should not be the only factors shaping international responses to the regime, Campbell argued.

“We allow these stories of North Korea to have a disproportionate impact on our policy,” Campbell said.

“By ignoring the stories of the 26 million people that live in this country, our policies have been distorted, and we are not going to achieve a positive outcome for anyone, not least those suffering under the yoke of a terrible and autocratic government.”

While sharing other stories depicting very different images to prison camps and people enduring hardship, Campbell recalled seeing a little girl eating ice cream in Chonjin, the capital of North Korea’s North Hamgyoung province.

“She must have had some money and was free to buy it,” she said.

At a school sports carnival in Rajin-Sonbong, children were encouraged to knock off the heads of wooden images of US and Japanese soldiers.

Campbell noted those involved were genuinely embarrassed that people like herself witnessed the event.

“There was empathy. A basic feeling of mutual respect and understanding, a feeling that it shouldn’t have gone on in front of us,” she said.

Without casting judgement, she noted North Koreans were likewise portrayed as villains in Western movies, comics and video games.

She was also intrigued by local reactions to two large screens in the relatively affluent city of Rajin-Sonbong — one in a park, the other in the city centre.

When news or patriotic songs were broadcast, there was little interest from the public. But when cartoons were screened, people were transfixed.

“There was a captured audience of a city square full of people,” Campbell said.

“When the cartoon stopped, the news came on and everyone left.

“We were not a hint of anyone engaging on different answers — engagement or isolation, but in doing so you need to consider the stories of all of these people, and not just the labour camps and the soldiers.”

Dr Emma Campbell is a postdoctoral fellow based at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific.

Images courtesy of Emma Campbell.

Already there is a culture of aspiration, relative affluence, desire,” Campbell said.

“This will bring change to North Korea, not the hawkish tactics of the West.

“We need to ask do we join this, and also meet our humanitarian obligations, or do we follow our current path?”

“I respect that we may come up with different answers — engagement or isolation, but in doing so you need to consider the stories of all of these people, and not just the labour camps and the soldiers.”

Despite barriers presented by the controlled nature of tours in the North, she believes visits by informed travellers can go a long way towar
Hard Lessons in Soft Power

Social media is spinning a web for worldly Asian states, writes JAMES GIGGACHER.

In this digital age of me, myself, and I, we all know the power of social media to help us present our best face to the world. From Facebook to Instagram, YouTube to Twitter, we carefully cultivate everything about our lives, broadcasting ourselves, ‘bio-blogging’, ‘photo-shopping’ and massaging the mandarins into the profound to a never-ending quest for likes, followers, ‘+s, pins, retweets and reposts. But if you thought it was tough for us mere mortals to get ‘friends’ to show they care with a share, think about big, amorphous, cumbersome entities like states and governments.

They, much like Miley Cyrus Wrecking Ball video on YouTube, have crashed through our ‘social’ world of web to try and take the real world by storm. According to ANU researcher and international relations expert Dr Ian Hall and his co-author, Sydney-based Dr Franki Smith, states have enthralled on to the power of social media and its ability to make us all look good. Much like Asia’s supersonic ascension to the top of the global pops, Hall and Smith argue that it’s a trend that’s on the rise in the region, with states investing in public diplomacy to help shape the opinions of foreigners.

“There are two arms races in Asia today; one for military capabilities and another for the weapons of what international relations writer Joseph S Nye famously termed ‘soft power’ – the power to attract rather than the power to coerce,” says Hall.

“Today, Asian states are investing in public diplomacy, through Facebook, Twitter, traditional media and academic and cultural exchanges, to build soft power. These tools are being used by states in order to make themselves appear more attractive to people overseas and thereby increase their ability to influence international relations in their region.”

Hall says that China is leading the way. But how does one take it to self that fits in one billion people?

“China began in the late 1990s, and now stands as the region’s largest investor in various supposed instruments of soft power,” he says.

“In the space of about 15 years, it has created new foreign language TV stations, revamped its management of the foreign media, surged its student exchange programs, founded some 320 Confucius Institutes at overseas universities (with plans for another 1,000), and played host to a series of major events, including the Olympic Games.”

And like most things social media, China now have their imitators. Hall says other Asian states have responded in kind.

“Even Myanmar has set up English language TV stations and acquired a social media presence. South Korea is expanding the number of Confucius Institutes, tasked with promoting Korean language and culture, from about 35 to 150 by 2015,” says Hall.

But like a poorly thought out iPhone photo in the bathroom that reveals a little too much detail, controlling your image is harder than it looks. Often states suffer from social media smack downs and Facebook faux pas.

According to Hall, the more governments try to manipulate their images, the more they alienate rather than attract foreigners in the region. He says that quite clearly these tools of social media and real public policy isn’t great for winning new friends.

“Instead, what I would suggest, is that foreign public opinion in Asia, as elsewhere, is influenced more by what states do than by what they might say about themselves,” says Hall.

“Good or bad behaviour seems to matter far more in the region’s struggle for soft power than good or bad ‘spin’.”

So the next time Australia finds itself embroiled in a diplomatic row over alleged spying, the following tweet from our foreign policy wonks in Canberra might not be the best idea:

Hey Indonesia, sorry about collecting your missed calls... LOL. Wanna follow @ Timor-Leste? Because like most things in life, actions speak louder than words – and there isn’t much you can say that’s worth talking about in 140 characters anyway.

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The Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet) is an acclaimed interdisciplinary program that conducts regulatory research at the highest international standards that makes local contributions to good governance.

RegNet members undertake regulatory research that promotes social justice, fairness, human rights and freedoms, and ecologically sustainable development.

Among its world-class thinkers are Professor John Braithwaite (for his work on restorative justice and peace building), Professor Valerie Braithwaite (for her work on social capital), Professor Peter Drahos (working on intellectual property and global governance) and Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow Professor Hilary Charlesworth (working on international law and human rights).

A major new international study has backed pioneering work by ANU into restorative justice, finding criminals are less likely to re-offend after meeting their victims face-to-face.

International research led by Cambridge University and launched at ANU, has found Restorative Justice Conferences, pioneered in Canberra, helped both criminals and their victims.

It found the frequency of repeat offending to be down as much as 55 per cent for some offences, compared to those dealt with by the criminal justice system without restorative meetings with their victims.

Victims of crime also reported greater satisfaction with the outcomes compared to those dealt with through the courts, as well as lower levels of post-traumatic stress from the crime.

Professor John Braithwaite from the Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet) at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific helped develop Restorative Justice Conferences in Canberra in the 1990s.

“Because crime hurts, justice should heal,” said Professor John Braithwaite.

“When a real victim of serious crime is in the room, it can have a big effect on re-offending.

“Now we have results from studies of the highest quality around the world to show that it works.”

Restorative Justice Conferences can be used either as an alternative or as a supplement to the courts.

They involve victims and their criminals agreeing to meet with family or friends present, with police or other trained moderators, to discuss how to repair the harm a crime has caused.

Victims have a direct say on what the offender will agree to do, and are free to speak about the pain and anguish of the offence.

Developed by ANU and pioneered in Canberra from early programs in New Zealand, they are now used in one form or another in every Australian state and in most countries around the world.

The international review of Restorative Justice Conferences, led by Dr Heather Strang and Professor Lawrence Sherman of the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge and RegNet, examined 10 studies across three continents.

The review covered 1,679 offenders who were tracked over two years, and interviewed with 734 victims. They found Restorative Justice Conferences had a solid benefit to the community, and to the victims of crimes.

In the UK alone, repeat convictions were down by 27 per cent in the two years following a Restorative Justice Conference.

“The effect of conferencing on victims satisfaction with the handling of their cases is uniformly positive,” said Dr Strang.

“Among the kinds of cases in which both offenders and victims are willing to meet, Restorative Justice Conferences seem highly likely to reduce future crime, not only by the offenders, but also by reducing the victims’ anger and desire for violent revenge.

“Victims’ satisfaction with the handling of their cases is consistently higher for victims assigned to Restorative Justice Conferences than for victims whose cases were assigned to normal criminal justice processing,” said Dr Strang, who is Deputy Director of the Jerry Lee Centre of Experimental Criminology at the University of Cambridge and an Adjunct Professor at RegNet.

The study, by Dr Strang and her colleagues, was peer reviewed and approved by the International Crime and Justice Steering Group of the Campbell Collaboration, a global consortium for evidence-based policy hosted by the Norwegian government.
A ground-breaking study has revealed how the 21st century’s first new state, Timor-Leste, achieved independence from a much more powerful Indonesia by laying down the gun.

Twenty-two years ago thousands of East Timorese marched through the Santa Cruz cemetery in Timor-Leste’s capital Dili. The peaceful procession which snaked its way through the bleach white tombstones was calling for liberation from Indonesian rule. The demonstrators had been warned by the Indonesian authorities that if they marched they would be killed. Still they poured into the streets, and tragically the dust that they kicked up with their feet was soon stained red as the demonstrators had been war wounded. More than 200 people, including many young children, died that day; sacrificing their lives for their country and the far-off promise of freedom.

The dust has long settled and the blood stains have faded, but the massacre was captured on film by the international media and the grisly images received worldwide backing for General Dini’s forces to go in and restore order as well as ensuing civil war did not break out.

Networked governance of freedom and tyranny is published by ANU E Press and is available for free download at epress.anu.edu.au.

According to Braithwaite, recent studies confirm that East Timor is not a one-off case. An international study of 323 resistance struggles around the world found that 56 per cent gained most of their objectives through non-violent struggle. This compares to a success rate of only 26 per cent for resistance movements using violence. Braithwaite says that in the case of East Timor there were two key moments when the role of non-violent struggle came to the fore: the 1991 Santa Cruz massacre and the 1999 independence referendum.

“The Santa Cruz massacre was a turning point because it marked another turn away from violent struggle toward non-violent resistance. And it was an exceptionally courageous form of non-violent resistance.”

“Also after the historic 1999 independence referendum, the East Timorese military forces were held in cantonment, even though certain leaders of the Indonesian military had mobilised militias which were slaughtering civilians and burning 70 per cent of housing and public buildings across the country. Not reacting to this through military force helped ensure that East Timor received UN and US backing for General Cosgrove’s forces to go in and restore order as well as ensuing civil war did not break out.”

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Covering ‘Greater China’, the Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW) is a research institution dedicated to driving a new Sinology – an academic approach and an intellectual disposition that encourages a multifaceted understanding of China and the Sinophone world, one grounded in an ability to appreciate the living past in China’s present.

Bringing together the wealth of China expertise at ANU, CIW is a hub for Australian and international scholars and a world-leading institution for Chinese studies. Work at CIW covers Chinese history, thought, culture, media, politics, society, gender, environment, economics, foreign and strategic policy, and regional affairs.

Among CIW’s many innovative projects is The China Story – a web-based and freely accessible account of contemporary China which also publishes an annual yearbook.

China in the World

An exemplary society
Since he assumed the Chinese presidency, Xi Jinping has reasserted the attention of government on the eradication of corruption, using not only the instruments of state power to arrest and detain offenders but also traditional methods of persuasion to encourage civilised behaviour in the community as a whole. Whether such methods, pioneered in the early years of the People’s Republic, and in fact even earlier, are still effective, remains an open question.

Benjamin Penny

Revolution to riches
Income inequality is one of the main challenges facing Chinese President Xi Jinping as he seeks to turn the China Dream into a reality for all Chinese people, through the development of a ‘civilised’ economy. China’s emergence as a major global power continues to challenge the rules, norms and institutions that govern the international economy, igniting highly charged debates about the role of the state in an increasingly globalised, but not always entirely civilised world.

Jane Golley

GIVING CHOPSTICKS THE CHOP

Billions of pairs of chopsticks are discarded each year.
But Chinese calls for non-disposable alternatives will be hard to swallow for the Japanese, reports BELINDA CRANSTON.

When a Chinese timber company chief urged his countrymen to do away with disposable chopsticks, the Japanese must have baulked.

Legend has it the first use of chopsticks occurred around 2,100BC, when Da Yu, founder of the Chinese Xia dynasty, used a pair of twigs to eat his food, because he didn’t want to wait for the meat to cool.

Fast forward four thousand years, China is choosing down 20 million mature trees a year for chopsticks – a figure that can no longer be sustained, Bo Guangxin, chairman of Jilin Forestry Industry group, told the National People’s Congress in March.

While bamboo or chopsticks made from lacquer are used in Japanese homes, the thought of using anything but disposable chopsticks when eating out wouldn’t go down well with the germ phobic nation, says Markus Wernli, who lived in Kyoto for two years until last year.

“For the Japanese, hygiene is a big thing,” says the research design manager at the ANU Centre on China in the World (CIW).

“They don’t feel so confident with plastic chopsticks. They might not be washed properly.”

Even in top notch restaurants that serve multi-course meals for $100, chances are, disposable chopsticks, the Japanese don’t discard, reports Bernal Gerrie.

Metal chopsticks continue to be used to cool.

The one time of the year when the Japanese don’t discard their chopsticks is in January, when Oshogatsu (New Year) celebrations take place.

Cuisine is prepared for “good health and prosperity” and chopsticks are wrapped in gold ribbon or glittered paper. Names of family members are written in ink on the paper.

“You use the chopsticks for the whole month,” says Wernli.

“You only eat with those chopsticks, to send you on a good path for the New Year.”

When he was studying Chinese at a Taipei university, CIW PhD student Paul Farrelly was given a pair of unscrewable plastic chopsticks, neatly packaged in a 10 centimetre case, as a gift.

During the five years that he studied at the National Taiwan Normal University, he used them every day.

Those who use portable chopsticks in Taiwan are respected, he says.

“It’s a bit of a status symbol. People associate it with being environmentally conscious.”

A Korean myth suggests silver chopsticks are widely used, because an ancient King was concerned with assassination.

Apparently he believed chopsticks made of silver would tarnish on contact with any poison in his food.

Metal chopsticks continue to be used to imitate royalty, with bucket loads of these chopsticks a common sight at Korean eating houses.

“The cuisine is meat based, so metal chopsticks are more appropriate,” Wernli says.

But regardless of where you may find them, there are universal rules to using chopsticks.

No matter what country one is in, they should never be placed upright in a bowl of rice, as this is reminiscent of incense sticks used as offerings to people who have died.

Likewise rice should be scooped lightly from a bowl.

“Never dig chopsticks into rice. Its bad luck,” says Wernli.
One of the world’s most ancient civilisations is undergoing a new civilising mission. But China’s efforts to be more like ‘the West of us’ are not only having impacts at home but also abroad, writes GEREMIE R BARME.

Since the late 19th century efforts to create modern societies in East Asia have involved redefining ancient civilisations and integrating new ideas into old cultures. This is the challenge faced today by the Chinese Communist Party, which uses the expression ‘redefining or ‘civilisation’ within China to improve civic standards, promote patriotism, evolve flexible cultural and political traditions and limit dissent. And as China becomes wealthier and more confident on the global stage, it also expects to be respected and accommodated as a major global force and a formidable civilisation.

But how does one go about ‘civilising’ (read here modernising in the image of the West) one of the world’s most ancient civilisations? And can ‘the West of us’ fairly expect China to be and behave like the ‘rest of us’?

A recent spat over graffiti proves illuminating. In May 2013 a Sina Weibo (a Chinese microblogging website) user named ‘Independent Sky Traveller’ uploaded an image he said made him feel shame and a loss of face. The image was of a graffiti reading ‘Din Jinhao was here’ defacing an ancient frieze at the Luxor Temple complex in Egypt. An animated discussion on social media ensued about this vandalism, which many felt had caused all of China to lose face. Within a day angry Internet users discovered that Ding Jinhao was a fourteen-year-old boy living in Nanjing. Ding’s parents apologised on his behalf and asked for forgiveness from the public. But the debate raged on; within a week the original post was forwarded almost 100,000 times and generated close to 20,000 comments expressing anger, embarrassment and deep sadness.

This furor came amid an explosion of Chinese outbound tourism. But it’s not all one way traffic. China’s growing wealth is having a profound impact on the world. This takes many forms, from large-scale investment in Africa and Latin America to the conspicuous consumption of wealthy Chinese who are becoming world leaders in the market for luxury goods. And as Chinese consumers acquire global tastes, they will potentially fashion and change what those tastes are: a recent Australian documentary, Red Obsession, shows how increasing demand in China for Bordeaux wines is influencing the fate of the famous French wine-growing region.

At home, the Chinese Communist Party describes its transformation of society in the language of Marxism-Leninism: a socialist values system, nationwide civilised city campaigns and the new socialist village movement that would transform the rural environment along urban lines. It also promotes usefully rejigged elements of China’s political, historical and cultural heritage.

Internationally, it insists on global acceptance of its particular interpretation of China’s ancient culture as well as the historical narrative that the Communist Party rescued China from a political and economic decline that began in the 19th century and for which both Western and later Japanese imperialism must take a significant share of the responsibility.

Both at home and abroad, its outlook is informed by a combination of insistence on the legitimacy of its one-party system, hybrid economic practices and the ethos of state-directed wealth creation.

And here lies the paradox at the heart of China’s renewed interest in civilisation: a revitalised enthusiasm for Chinese culture and civilisation and enhanced nationalism versus appeals to rediscover the ideals of shared universal values held at a global level.

The government of the People’s Republic of China reasonably believes that the norms and behaviours of the dominant economic powers should not be regarded as the sole global standard; it argues that those of emerging (or in its case re-emerging) nations like itself are equally important.

Accommodating to (official) Chinese views, standards and interpretations, therefore, broadens and enriches the existing global order and challenges it at the same time.

The old order, as represented by such Western capitalist democracies as the US, Canada, the UK, Europe and Australia, may stand in awe of China’s economic prowess. Yet state socialism and its authoritarian politics are anathema to its own concepts of civilisation. The Communist Party’s ongoing efforts to redefine and refine Chinese civilisation, to promote wenzhong, literally ‘a civilised China’, and the notion of sagacious one-party rule as an integral part of this civilising process is thus of great importance and interest to the world at large — not to mention other parts of the Sinosphere, such as Taiwan, which holds competing notions of Chinese civilisation and the role of the Communist Party in its promotion.

Professor Geremie R Barmé is Director of the Australian Centre on China in the World at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. This article is an edited extract from The China Story Yearbook 2013 ‘Civilising China’, available for free download at www.thecchinastory.org
ANU-Indonesia gifted researchers program

In February 2014 the College launched a major pilot exercise, on behalf of the University, the ANU-Indonesia Gifted Researchers Program. The five-day intensive program in Indonesia was designed to inspire, encourage and help sharpen the research skills of 50 of the best advanced undergraduates in the humanities and social sciences. The projects produced a cohort of the most talented young Indonesians with a much keener appreciation for research and greater motivation to pursue research training.

Wasiapacific.anu.edu.au/anu-gifted-researchers-program

Parliamentary internships scheme

This scheme builds upon the existing model of the College’s highly successful national internship program with the United States Congress and creates parallel frameworks with the legislatures of Japan, Indonesia, China, India and Korea. Under the framework, students from participating universities around Australia compete for vacation placement in the personal offices of leading legislators in these key Asian countries.

EngageAsia

The ANU EngageAsia initiative provides programs and courses for school teachers and school students looking to expand their knowledge of Asia and the Pacific. It currently offers graduate-level teacher training programs and a number of activities for schools to become involved with including: Asia Pacific Day, Language Immersion Workshops and a guest lecture series.

W engageasia.anu.edu.au

Pasifika Australia

Pasifika Australia is a major ANU student equity project created by the Pacific studies program in the School of Culture History and Language and supported by the ANU Student Equity Office and the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. It consists of a community of ANU students and staff who are passionate about equity, educational and identity issues facing Pacific communities and Pacific students in Australia.

W pasifika.anu.edu.au

edX Engaging India

ANU has become the first Australian member of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) provider edX, the online learning enterprise founded by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that aims to provide education to one billion people worldwide within 10 years. The College’s first MOOC, Engaging India, offers an overview of contemporary India and explores its role as one of the dominant economic and military powers of Asia. The entire course will be available in both English and Hindi.

W edx.org/school/anux

Revenue

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Asia and the Pacific at ANU

ONLINE RESOURCES

asiapacific.anu.edu.au
Showcases the expertise, research and teaching of more than 200 academics at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific working across 17 disciplines, through dynamic news stories and commentary on the region’s latest trends and major issues.
W asiapacific.anu.edu.au

The China Story
Draws on the world-leading expertise of the Australian Centre on China in the World at ANU, to present insights into contemporary China through essays, interviews and an annual online yearbook.
W thechinastory.org

Devpolicy
The influential platform for the best in aid and development analysis, research and policy comment, hosted by the ANU Development Policy Centre, with more than 500 blog posts logged by its contributors.
W devpolicy.org

East Asia Forum
The influential, go-to website for the best in analysis, research and policy comment on the Asia Pacific region in world affairs, with a highly regarded quarterly companion magazine.
W eastasiaforum.org

Indonesia Project blog
News and commentary on the Indonesian economy and the economic policies and events that influence its performance.
W asiapacific.anu.edu.au/blogs/indonesiaproject

New Mandala
A pioneer in the digitisation of Southeast Asian studies, New Mandala offers anecdote, analysis and new perspectives on the region, with dozens of comments posted daily by its active community of readers.
W asiapacific.anu.edu.au/newmandala

Outrigger
The online home of the ANU Pacific Institute, featuring the latest news and updates on research, teaching and outreach activities of the Institute’s members.
W pacificinstitute.anu.edu.au/outrigger

South Asia Masala
Brings together almost 40 expert contributors in an interdisciplinary blog covering the political, economic, cultural, social, developmental and strategic issues of the countries of South Asia.
W asiapacific.anu.edu.au/blogs/southasiamasala

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