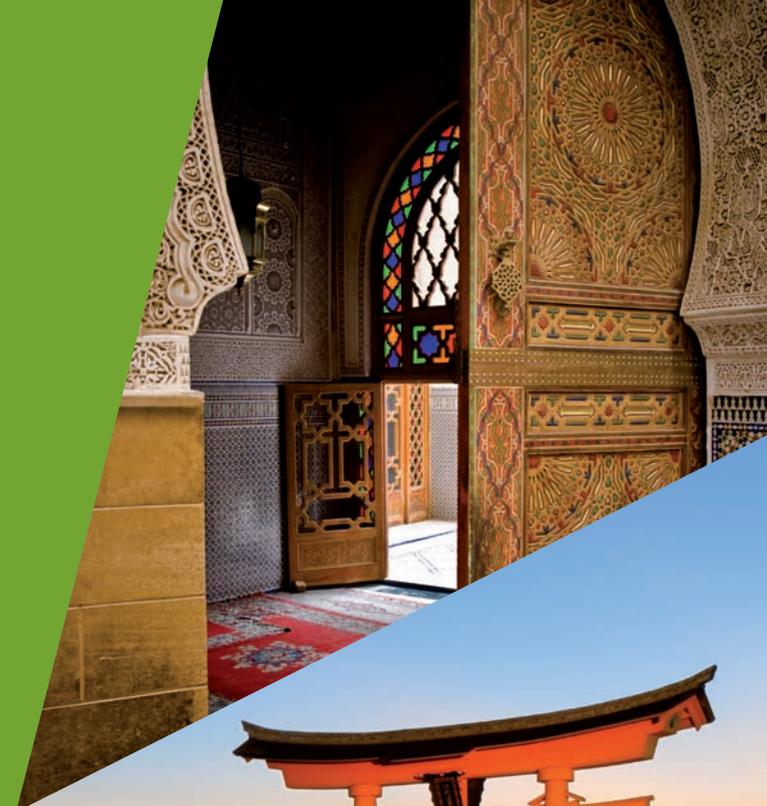


asia institute



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

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Overview



Welcome to the Asia Institute

As Director, it is my great pleasure to introduce you to the Asia Institute, the University of Melbourne's key centre for studies in Asian languages and cultures.

The importance of Asia and the Middle East to Australia, and the world, continues to grow at an unprecedented pace. The region has become a global economic powerhouse where the largest producers and consumers of goods and services are located. People-to-people links between Australia and the region have broadened and deepened our social and cultural ties.

The Asia Institute strives to provide leadership in the study of the rich intellectual, legal, political, cultural and religious traditions of these vital regions. Through its diverse extensive teaching, research and engagement activities, the Asia Institute exists as a vibrant centre of critical thinking on Asia-related topics.

Our teaching programs include Arabic, Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese languages, as well as Asian and Islamic Studies. We have close links with other Schools and Faculties across the University, and our programs are strongly interdisciplinary in focus.

Asia Institute academic staff have an array of research interests and specialisations that can be grouped into the broad categories of language and society, religion and tradition, mobility and popular culture, international relations and political economy. They are regularly called on by local and national media sources to provide expert opinions on a range of contemporary and historical Asia-related issues that arise in both scholarly and popular debate.

With an exciting roster of visiting scholars and high-profile national and international speakers, the Asia Institute delivers a dynamic program



of academic and community-focused events including seminars, workshops, public lectures and major Asia-related conferences. Through our international partnerships, we participate in a range of cultural exchange programs.

On behalf of our staff and students as well as our alumni and friends, I am delighted to welcome you to the Asia Institute.

Professor Pookong Kee
Director, Asia Institute
Faculty of Arts
The University of Melbourne

Why study Asia?

- Asia possesses a wealth of cultural, historical, religious and political diversity.
- Australia is a culturally diverse nation that is part of Asia.
- Our Asian neighbourhood is home to more than one half of the world's population.
- Australian links with the Asian region are critical in political, economic and strategic terms.
- Economic growth within the Asian region has overtaken that of Europe and North America, as demonstrated by the huge recent economic transformations in China, India and nations of Southeast Asia.
- Students with Asia-knowledge are highly valued in the fields of government, policy analysis and commerce, as well as in the finance and service industries, both nationally and internationally.
- Students with Asia-knowledge are effective global citizens with a better understanding of the fundamental changes taking place in this dynamic region of the world.



Why study at the Asia Institute?

World-class academic staff

The Asia Institute is a preeminent teaching and research institute that brings together a team of over 30 academic staff with expert knowledge across a number of Asian and Middle Eastern countries. Our research strengths span the fields of Anthropology, Economics, History, Linguistics, Politics, Sociology and Religion.

Dynamic community

Through its vibrant and extensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs, the Asia Institute promotes the study of Arabic, Japanese, Indonesian and Chinese languages and the rich intellectual, cultural, political and religious traditions of Asia and the Islamic world. We deliver academic seminars and public lectures throughout the year and host high-profile national and international speakers. The Institute also organises and supports several major Asia-focused conferences.

International links

The Asia Institute's many international partnerships include a range of exchange and study abroad programs as well as research networking and collaborative research projects. Scholarships provide opportunities for students to live and study in a number of countries throughout the Asian region.

Multidisciplinary approach

The study of Asia at the University of Melbourne is multidisciplinary. Students of Arts, Law, Music, Science, Architecture, Economics and other disciplines, undertake Asian language studies to enhance their academic experience and open the door to further career options.

Areas of study

6 AREAS OF STUDY TO EXPLORE
AT THE ASIA INSTITUTE

**Arabic
Language
and Studies**
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**Asian
Studies**
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**Chinese
Language
and Studies**
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**Indonesian
Language
and Studies**
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**Islamic
Studies**
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**Japanese
Language
and Studies**
/ 6

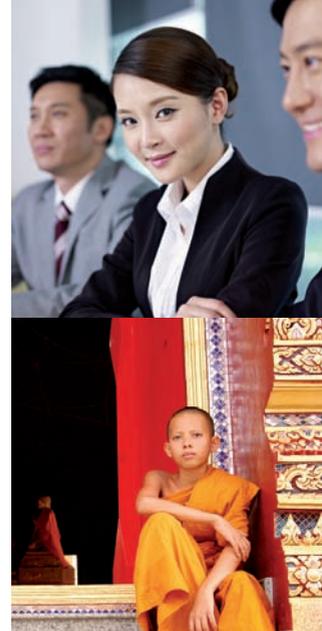
Arabic Language and Studies

Arabic is spoken by more than 200 million people around the world. Australia itself has a sizeable Arabic-speaking community.

The Asia Institute is proud to deliver a comprehensive Arabic Studies program.

The increasing trade and diplomatic exchanges between Australia and Arab countries makes it important for students wishing to pursue a career in these areas to acquire the language and understand its cultures. In this era of globalisation, for cultural, economic, political and, in many cases, religious reasons, relations between the Arabic-speaking countries and the rest of the world are becoming increasingly important. Students of Arabic at the Asia Institute also receive a comprehensive grounding in important areas of Arab society and culture.

There are a range of rewarding career possibilities for graduates fluent in Arabic such as the medical and nursing professions, urban planning, building and construction, engineering, international trade and law, journalism, aid agencies, NGOs, international bodies, English language teaching, travel and tourism. Within Australia, graduates of Arabic studies may seek employment in a wide range of fields in both the public and private sector, and in professions serving the large Arab community in Australia.



Asian Studies

The Asian Studies program at the University of Melbourne is one of the largest in Australia.

Asian Studies teaching focuses on the rich intellectual, cultural, economic, political and religious traditions of Asia with an emphasis on China, Indonesia, Japan, the Middle East and Southeast Asian societies.

A cross disciplinary enterprise, Asian Studies enable students either to study a particular Asian society or group of societies from a variety of perspectives. Alternatively students can examine a specific social or cultural phenomenon across a range of different countries.

Students can also draw on a comprehensive range of subjects taught by specialist staff from various disciplines across the University.

Graduates of the Asian Studies program have consistently progressed to successful careers in many fields, including government and private sectors. Some graduates have also chosen to continue studies at a postgraduate level, either by coursework or research.

Often postgraduate students are co-supervised by academic staff from both the Asia Institute and another School, thus maximising the potential for interdisciplinary study.



Chinese Language and Studies

China is a 'rising power' in the western Pacific region whose future importance for Australia is hard to overestimate.

China's current level of investment in research and tertiary education indicates that it is poised to make a very rapid transition to a 'knowledge economy'. This is a matter of direct relevance for the career planning of today's undergraduates.

Melbourne is one of the few universities in Australia to offer students the choice of a major in Chinese language and minors in Chinese language or Chinese studies.

Teaching in the Chinese program is informed by staff research in a wide range of disciplines such as film studies, gender studies, history, linguistics, literature, multicultural studies, politics and popular culture.

Chinese language subjects are offered for all levels, from absolute beginners through to fluent speakers. Chinese language study can also be undertaken as part of an Asian Studies program at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The Chinese program offers students a variety of opportunities for in-country study. The University has exchange programs with a number of top universities such as Peking University, Qinghua University, Fudan University, Nanjing University and Nankai University in China, and National Taiwan University in Taipei. Regular components of the undergraduate program include an intensive summer course taught over four weeks. The University offers a number of exchange places every year.

Indonesian Language and Studies

The Indonesian program at the Asia Institute provides thorough training in the language as well as a broad understanding of contemporary Indonesian culture, politics and society.

Indonesia's geographic proximity and its regional influence mean that deepening our understanding of its peoples, politics, history, languages and cultures is of vital strategic importance to Australia. The Indonesian program at the Asia Institute is among Australia's finest, and is taught at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

As the most influential member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the fourth most populous country in the world, it is an increasingly important force in international affairs.

Indonesia is culturally diverse, comprising hundreds of different ethnic groups and languages with rich literary traditions, spread over thousands of islands. It has the world's largest Muslim-majority population but also includes significant Christian, Buddhist and Hindu minorities. The national language of Indonesia – Indonesian or Bahasa Indonesia – has made an important contribution to the country's unity. Based on Malay, Indonesian is closely related to

the national languages of three other Southeast Asian countries – Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore – thus giving access to more than 250 million people on Australia's doorstep.

Research and teaching expertise in the Indonesian program includes the social context of religion in Indonesia, language documentation and endangerment among the languages of the country, contemporary Indonesian literature, and Indonesian language teaching methodologies and applied linguistics.

Subjects are designed and taught with an understanding that expertise in Indonesian studies can enhance employment opportunities in commerce, education, government and cultural affairs, among many other fields. The program is also an excellent foundation to engage in further in-depth research on aspects of Indonesian society through postgraduate study.



Photo: Dr Edwin Jurriens

Islamic Studies

Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in the world. It is embraced by approximately one-fifth of the world's population.

Numerous studies and reports commissioned by governments in Australia and throughout the world have identified the study of Islam as a key strategic priority. Increasing worldwide understanding of Islamic history and culture, and of Muslim societies, serves Australia's national interest and cultural exchange.

With this in mind, the Islamic Studies program has been expertly crafted to attract students interested in working in areas where success depends on understanding Islam and Islamic culture, such as foreign affairs, international trade, immigration, ethnic affairs, journalism, social work and teaching.

Islamic Studies address the issues relevant to the development of Islam as a religion and civilisation from its origins to the present. It draws on broad multidisciplinary perspectives provided by a range of other Schools at the University, with subject areas including anthropology, Arabic studies, cultural studies, history, Indonesian studies, philosophy and political science.

Students in the program are encouraged to develop their interests in Islamic Studies and in another area of study that will provide them with skills

to analyse issues relevant to Islam and Muslim societies with a good understanding of Islamic world view, its value system, and particular historical experiences.

Subjects are available at undergraduate level both as a major within a Bachelor of Arts, or as a breadth component to another degree. Students who specialise in Islamic studies develop transferable skills that will greatly enhance their career options. They are also able to expand on their interest and knowledge through an articulated structure of higher degree study at the Asia Institute, either through research or coursework. The interdisciplinary nature of Islamic Studies at the Asia Institute allows many postgraduate students to also be co-supervised by academics from related Schools across the University of Melbourne.

Dedicated teaching staff provide expertise in areas ranging from modern Islamic hermeneutics, political thought and gender issues, to the study of economics and finance in Muslim societies. Academics are supported by the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies which is part of the Asia Institute.



Japanese Language and Studies

Japan continues to be ranked in the top five most positively seen nations in the world.*

This positive image of Japan is due to perceptions of both new and traditional values in Japanese culture and society. The country continues to attract attention; in Australia, Japanese is one of the most popular LOTE (languages other than English) subjects of the last two decades.

At the Asia Institute, there are more than 900 enrolments in Japanese subjects, with nearly 500 enrolments in Japanese language for beginners alone. This makes ours one of the largest and most successful Japanese programs in Australia.

The program is designed to nurture intercultural communication skills and global perspectives. Our core language subjects, taught at a range of levels from beginner to advanced, are designed to maximise acquisition of the language as well as develop cultural literacy, helping students to develop their communication skills in

producing and understanding various types of texts and in interactional contexts. Japanese Studies subjects such as Contemporary Japan and Social Problems in Japan also help students understand the complexity and diversity of Japanese society as well as the challenges Japan faces in the 21st century.

Our academic staff are highly trained and experienced in Japanese as a second/foreign language education, and are actively engaged in research activities that enrich our teaching practices. The study of Japanese language and culture gives students insight not only into a deep and diverse culture but also provides important contrasts when considering various nations' roles in the Asia-Pacific region. An understanding of Japanese language and culture contributes to students' wider understanding of these complex and fascinating cultural, historical, political and economic flows in Asia.

Undergraduate and graduate programs

Undergraduate Programs

Students enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne can choose a major or minor from up to two of the six areas of study offered at the Asia Institute. ba.unimelb.edu.au

Many students enrolled in other undergraduate degrees at the University of Melbourne choose to enhance their academic experience by taking Asia Institute subjects as breadth subjects.

The concurrent Diploma in Languages allows students to complete a full program of language subjects alongside their Bachelor degree in an integrated progression of study. This will normally add one year onto a degree course, but in fast-track mode, both the Bachelor and Diploma may be completed in three and a half or three years. arts.unimelb.edu.au/arts-student-centre/options/diploma-languages

Graduate Programs

Master of Translation

The Asia Institute is delighted to announce that a new Master of Translation program will be offered from 2015. It prepares highly skilled professionals to mediate Australia's international relations in coming decades.

The program is initially aimed at Chinese-English bilinguals who intend to work as professional translators, or in professional roles that demand high-level translation and intercultural skills. It focuses on written translation between English and Chinese and participants will develop professional competence in translating specialised topics, managing terminology, using translation technologies, and negotiating the cultural and intellectual boundaries of the Chinese- and English-speaking worlds.

Practical learning is based on theories of translation. Study methods include intensive small group sessions, autonomous study through

learning technologies, and an internship placement in a professional translation environment. Graduates may work in fields such as government, commerce, law, international relations, or specialised technical areas.

graduate.arts.unimelb.edu.au/translation

Other Graduate Coursework Programs

Asian studies subjects are offered in a number of the graduate coursework programs offered within the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences and in the Melbourne School of Government.

Master of International Relations
government.unimelb.edu.au/MIR

Executive Master of Arts
graduate.arts.unimelb.edu.au/ema

For other graduate programs, please visit arts.unimelb.edu.au/graduate-studies/programs

Research

Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies

The Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies (CCCS) was launched in 2013 as a major University of Melbourne initiative. The Centre provides a focus for the University's extensive China-related research and engagement activities and hosts some thirty active Associates drawn from across the institution.

Under the leadership of Professor Christine Wong, the Centre is home to world-leading contemporary economic and political scholarship on China, engaging experts from Australia, China and around the world.

The Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies generates

high quality research and is developing collaborations within the University and with global research partners. It has created a platform for increasing knowledge, awareness and exchange of ideas among academics, the business community, and government.

Current Research Projects

Improving Public Finance and Public Administration for More Liveable Cities in China: challenges and opportunities for the 21st Century

Since 1980, China has moved from a largely agrarian society to an urbanised, modern industrial one. In the process, more than 500 million people have moved into cities. Yet, until the past 2–3 years, how municipal governments have managed this process and met the costs of financing the rapidly escalating demand for services and infrastructure was little known and indeed had attracted little scholarly interest. With the recent exposure of local government debt and increased awareness of the myriad social inequities faced by rural migrants, however, the problems of municipal finance and local governance have become important areas of research.

This research project builds on Professor Christine Wong's on-going collaboration with researchers in three of China's top Universities: Renmin University of China in Beijing, Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, and Zhejiang University in Hangzhou.

An exploration into the nature of Xi Jinping's program of Deepening Reforms (shenhua gaige)

In November 2013, the CCP Central Committee passed a resolution that defined the general work program of the Party over the coming decade as 'comprehensively deepening reforms'. This, taken together with other key policies and political programs established in Xi Jinping's first year as general secretary, suggests the current administration is attempting to mark its distance from the Hu Jintao administration it replaced, characterised in the eyes of its many detractors by a stalled program of economic reforms, widening corruption, severe social and environmental problems and new problems of political legitimacy. The current administration claims that it will open a new era by taking the best of the two historical eras that preceded it, referred to by Xi as the pre-reform and reform era. In this era, the Party under Xi will correct the various problems of the late reform era, guiding the people of China towards the realisation of the China Dream.

This research project is a wide-ranging attempt to place the era of Deepening Reforms (2009–) in historical perspective, situating Xi Jinping's program in relation to the general program and specific initiatives of the Mao era (1949–1979) and the reform era (1979–2009).



Centre for Contemporary
Chinese Studies Director
PROFESSOR CHRISTINE WONG



Christine Wong is a leading authority on China's public finance. Professor Wong joined The University of Melbourne as Chair Professor of Chinese Studies in 2013. Prior to this, she was Professor and Director of Chinese Studies at the

University of Oxford. Professor Wong has also held the Henry M. Jackson Professorship in International Studies at the University of Washington, and taught economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz; University of California, Berkeley; and Mount Holyoke College.

In addition to a distinguished academic career, Professor Wong has held senior staff positions in the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Over the past twenty years she has worked extensively with the World Bank, the OECD, the Asian Development Bank, as well the IMF, UNDP, UNICEF, and the UK Department for International Development. She is a member of the OECD Advisory Panel on Budgeting and Public Expenditures.

Centre for Contemporary
Chinese Studies Deputy Director
DR SOW KEAT TOK



Sow Keat Tok is Deputy Director of the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, and Lecturer at the Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne. He has previously held research and teaching positions in Singapore and the

*United Kingdom: East Asia Institute, National University of Singapore, China Policy Institute, The University of Nottingham and PAIS/CSGR, The University of Warwick. His research covers China's domestic politics and foreign relations, with particular focus on political and economic reforms, central-local relations and domestic dynamics of China's foreign policy. He is also a keen student of international relations in the Asia-Pacific. He is currently working on two different projects, one on China's development model post-GFC, and political representation of historical narratives in China-Japan relations. His most recent monograph is titled *Managing China's Sovereignty in Hong Kong and Taiwan*, published by Palgrave Macmillan (2013).*

Centre for Contemporary
Chinese Studies Research Fellow
DR ANTHONY GARNAUT



Anthony Garnaut is a social historian of modern China. His research examines the history of two social groups – Muslims and peasants – who have played important yet subordinated roles in China's national development.

His doctorate on the life of the Muslim religious leader Ma Yuanzhang (1853–1920), read under Geremie Barmé at the Division of Pacific and Asian History, The Australian National University, examined how the Chinese Muslims were re-incorporated into the late imperial and Republican political order after a series of major rebellions. He has worked as a research associate at the University of Melbourne on an ARC-funded project led by Stephen Wheatcroft on the comparative history of modern famines, and as a postdoctoral fellow at the Contemporary China Centre, University of Oxford. He has published articles on various aspects of the history of Chinese Muslims, and on the Great Famine that occurred in China in the early People's Republic.

A TEACHING AND
RESEARCH FACILITY
OF ELITE STANDING

National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies

The Asia Institute is honoured to host the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (NCEIS), a teaching and research facility of elite standing. Originally funded by the

Australian Federal Government to provide outstanding higher education-level programs in Islamic Studies, the Centre continues to be a dynamic collaboration between the

University of Melbourne, Griffith University and the University of Western Sydney. It has been committed to delivering a world-class, multidisciplinary program since its launch in 2007.

The Centre aims to meet the learning needs of aspiring and existing Muslim community leaders as well as teachers and other professionals interested in Islam and Islamic culture. Subjects have been developed through a unique process of consultation with

key stakeholders from the Muslim community as well as leading academics.

As well as bringing together established expertise in teaching and research at the participating universities, NCEIS plays an important role in public debates on contemporary Islam, particularly in an Australian context.

The Centre has an active research and publication program, and offers professional development programs for the community, government and corporate organisations. The Centre also regularly hosts public events such as seminars, workshops and lectures.

Engagement and partnerships are integral to the University of Melbourne's strategy of Growing Esteem. NCEIS shares the Asia Institute's commitment to treasuring the two-way exchange of ideas between the University and the broader community.

National Centre of Excellence for
Islamic Studies Director

PROFESSOR ABDULLAH SAEED



Since its inception, the Centre has been under the expert Directorship of Abdullah Saeed, Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies. Professor Saeed is a strong advocate of reform of Islamic thought who regularly engages with the Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities at national and international symposia to enhance community understandings of Islamic thought and Muslim societies. Professor Saeed has run a number of Islam related

programs for government agencies in Australia and abroad and is frequently asked to present at events both nationally and internationally.

Professor Saeed has authored and edited numerous works. His recent publications include Reading The Qur'an: in the Twenty-first Century, Routledge 2014; The Qur'an: An Introduction, Routledge 2008, Islamic Thought: An Introduction, Routledge, 2006; Interpreting the Qur'an: Towards a Contemporary Approach, Routledge, 2006; Approaches to the Qur'an in Contemporary Indonesia (editor), Oxford University Press, 2005; Freedom of Religion, Apostasy and Islam (co-author), Ashgate, 2004 and Islam in Australia, Allen & Unwin, 2003. In addition to his strong research focus, Professor Saeed continues to teach Islamic Studies at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and to supervise postgraduate students.



INTERDISCIPLINARY FORUM

Population, Migration and Multicultural Studies Network

The Population, Migration and Multicultural Studies Network was established in 2012. It functions primarily as a forum for University academics whose research falls within the area of Asian migration, economic migration, humanitarian migration, social cohesion and multiculturalism in an ethnically and religiously diverse society.

The Network explores how sustainable outcomes can arise from ongoing migration to Australia, how regional collaboration can

be strengthened, and how continued settlement efforts can be improved. It provides a space for outcome-focused research collaboration between those interested in the subject, such as community groups, non-governmental organisations, politicians, public servants as well as external partners and external researchers.

This Network carries the legacy of previous migration research completed at the University of Melbourne by its academics and students.

Taiwan Studies Research and Reading Group

The Asia Institute is home to a number of scholars, both staff and students, who have an active interest in the study of Taiwan's culture and society. Research interests include traditional Taiwanese culture from mainland China, Taiwan's Austronesian languages and cultures, folklore, popular culture and the influence of Taiwanese culture in other parts of the world.

The Taiwan Studies Research and Reading group was set up to facilitate national conferences and workshops, thereby strengthening ties between researchers working on Taiwan-related topics in Australia, Taiwan and other parts of the world.

Population, Multicultural and Migration Studies Network Academic Staff

PROFESSOR POOKONG KEE



Prior to joining the Asia Institute as its Director, Professor Kee was Professor of the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies and Director of the Ritsumeikan Centre for Asia

Pacific Studies at the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan. This was preceded by a three-year appointment as Director of the Chinese Heritage Centre in Singapore. Before his return to Asia in 1999, Professor Kee was Director and Professor of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Studies at Victoria University and Assistant Director of the Bureau of Immigration and Population Research. Professor Kee has a PhD degree in Psychology from the Australian National University and a BA with majors in Economics, Politics and Psychology from the University of Adelaide.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NANA OISHI



Associate Professor Nana Oishi has been conducting research on international migration for the past 25 years. She started her research career at The International

Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, then completed a PhD in Sociology at Harvard University as a Fullbright Scholar. Returning to Japan, she advised on a number of government committees to influence immigration policies. Prior to joining the University of Melbourne in 2013, Dr Oishi was Professor of Sociology at Sophia University in Tokyo. In recent years, she has been conducting research on highly skilled migrants, multiple migrations and the impact of nationalism on migration policies in Japan and Asia.

The Faculty of Arts Asian Scholar

PROFESSOR BINOD KHADRIA



Binod Khadria, Professor of Economics and Education at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, and Director of the International Migration and Diaspora Studies (IMDS) Project is presently visiting the University

*of Melbourne as the Faculty of Arts Asian Scholar at the Asia Institute. He has been a recipient of the Times and Fulbright Fellowships, and a Visiting Professor at universities in various parts of the world. He sits on the editorial boards of several international journals. His publications include *The Migration of Knowledge Workers: Second-Generation Effects of India's Brain Drain* (Sage, 1999). In 2009, he launched the *India Migration Report: Past, Present and the Future Outlook* (now in 2nd reprint), followed by *India Migration Report 2010–2011: The Americas* (Cambridge University Press, New York, 2012).*

Engagement

At the University of Melbourne, the term 'engagement' is used to describe many dimensions of interaction between academia and wider society.

ENGAGEMENT ENHANCES SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH



In particular, engagement enhances scholarship and research, prepares educated and engaged citizens, enriches cultural and community life, elevates public awareness of educational, scientific and artistic developments, and promotes critical enquiry and public debate within the community. As well as this, engagement embraces the

exchange of knowledge between partners in a mutually beneficial way that expands the capacities of all concerned.

Throughout the year the University of Melbourne opens its doors to the wider community and stimulates public debate on issues of local, national and international significance. This public debate

takes many forms and includes conferences, seminars, lectures and other cultural programs. By instigating these discussions and encouraging participation, we are able to work with the community to apply scholarly expertise to the problems and issues facing our society.

The Asia Institute is firmly committed to upholding these principles. Teaching programs at the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (NCEIS) and the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies (CCCS) are informed by close consultation with community groups. Many of our teaching programs actively encourage students to go on exchange programs to Asian countries, and many of our postgraduates conduct field research across the region.

The Asia Institute offers a public lecture series that regularly features leading scholars from around Australia and the world. Guest speakers are carefully selected to complement our teaching and research, and to appeal to students and staff as well as alumni and interested members of the general public.

Sidney Myer Asia Centre

VISIT THE AWARD-WINNING CENTRE, PROMINENTLY LOCATED ON THE PARKVILLE CAMPUS, ONLY MINUTES FROM THE CBD



Supporters of the Asia Institute

Costing \$18.5 million to construct, the Centre has been celebrated with many prestigious industry awards. An extremely generous \$2 million of the funding for the building was provided to the University by the Myer Foundation to mark the Sidney Myer Centenary Celebration, which recognised the legacy of one of Australia's most successful immigrants.

This contribution followed a long history of support for Asian scholarship at the University. In 1959, the Myer Foundation established a charitable trust fund named the "School of Oriental Studies", which continues to provide invaluable income for many teaching, research and community programs. In addition, a substantial endowment from the Sultanate of Oman was given to the University in 2003 in honour of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said for the preservation and promotion of Arab and Islamic civilisation.

Built in 2002, the Sidney Myer Asia Centre was designed specifically to house the Asia Institute as well as Asialink, a University-funded organisation which works to promote public understanding of Asian countries and cultures.

The interior of the building welcomes visitors with natural light, airy open spaces and clean lines. The ground floor is adorned with a three-metre sculpture by Akio Makigawa.

The Centre's facilities include a state-of-the-art 500-seat lecture theatre as well as extensive flexible teaching, research, and meeting spaces. Accessible computer facilities and specialised teaching spaces are included on many of the building's five storeys, and an intimate leafy courtyard tucked behind the building links it to a major library and resource centre.

Selected Academic Staff Profiles



DR CLAIRE MAREE
(Japanese Program)

Dr Maree's area of expertise is critical language studies. Her research field spans the intersections of sociolinguistics and cultural studies. She is particularly interested in developing theories of the linguistic negotiation of gender and sexuality in spoken discourse, and in examining the dynamics of language, gender and sexuality in the media.

Dr Maree is the author of two Japanese language monographs, and has authored numerous articles and chapters in both English and Japanese. Her most recent publication 'Onē-kotoba' Ron (On 'onē-kotoba') (Seidosha, 2013) traces the representation and appropriation of a queer speech style (onē-kotoba) in mainstream lifestyle media. The study employs a critical discourse approach to examine representations of the onē-kotoba style as it is absorbed and transformed in contemporary popular culture. Her current ARC Discovery Project, "Writing Identity onto the Screen: Subtitles and captions in Japanese Media", examines the use of text in audiovisual media. This work is heavily influenced by queer approaches to language and the media, and language and identity.

Dr Maree collaborates with scholars internationally. She is currently working with colleagues in Japan

developing frameworks for queer analysis focusing on time and space in the context of the 2011 triple disaster (earthquake/tsunami/nuclear crises). She also contributes to a project examining the intersections of queer studies and pedagogy in contemporary Japanese education.

A graduate of UWA (BA) Dr Maree was awarded a Monbusho Fellowship to research in Japan where she earned both her MA (1997) and PhD (2002) from the University of Tokyo. She joined the Asia Institute following 10 years of higher education teaching and supervisory experience in Japan (Tsuda-juku 2004–2010, Toyo University 2001–2004). She is on the Editorial Board for Gender and Language (Equinox) (2011-present) and is the Review Editor (Culture, Gender and Sexuality), Asian Studies Review (2013-present).



PROFESSOR ANNE MCLAREN
(Chinese Program)

Professor McLaren researches significant areas in Chinese popular culture from the late imperial to the contemporary period, with a focus on the interaction between performance arts, popular fiction and print culture. She has also published on cultural factors in Chinese cyberspace. Professor McLaren has authored or edited several books and studies and serves on the board of a number of international journals in these fields. A recent interest is the ethnoecology of the lower Yangzi delta, especially the way that folk performance reflects human response to the transformation of the local environment.

Professor McLaren collaborates with international researchers on joint publication projects, such as "First Impressions: The Cultural History of Print in Imperial China (8–14 centuries)" (Harvard University 2007); "The Interplay of Oral and Written Traditions in Chinese Fiction, Drama and Performance Literature" (Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Oslo, 2007); "Internet Domains Between China and India" (ARC funded China Node project), and "Ming Qing Women's Writing: Traditional Women through a Modern Lens" (Harvard University).

*Professor McLaren teaches courses in Chinese language and culture and supervises postgraduates in fields such as Chinese literature, culture, religion and gender issues. Her most recent book, *Performing Grief: Bridal Laments in Rural China*, is the first Western monographic study on this subject and offers a rare glimpse into the lives of women in pre-socialist China.*



DR MUHAMMAD KAMAL
(Islamic Studies Program)

Dr Kamal's research interests include the philosophies of Hegel, Western Existentialism, Heidegger, Mulla Sadra's existential philosophy, and modern Islamic thought. His central enquiry is to investigate the philosophy of existence in Western and Eastern traditions. The major theme of his research is a comparative analysis of different ontologies from different times and cultural backgrounds, such as the doctrine of the primacy of being in Sadra's philosophy, and Martin Heidegger's fundamental ontology.

*Dr Kamal's publications, *Mulla Sadra's Transcendent Philosophy* (2006) and *From Essence to Being: The Philosophy of Mulla Sadra and Martin Heidegger* (2010) are unique parallel analysis that delves into the most controversial subjects of Islamic and Western existential philosophy.*

Dr Kamal is a Kurd originally from Iraq. He obtained a Diploma in Education from the Teachers' Institute in Erbil. He left Iraq for Pakistan in 1979 to pursue his studies in Philosophy. He obtained a B.A. (Honours), M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Karachi. He taught first as a lecturer then as an assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Karachi from 1985 to 1994. In 1992 he went to Germany on DAAD scholarship for post-doctoral research. He migrated to Australia in 1994.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR YONGXIAN LUO
(Chinese Program)

Dr Luo's research interests are semantics, lexicography, language typology, areal linguistics, Southeast Asian linguistics, Tai linguistics and Sino-Tibetan linguistics. He is a specialist in Tai languages and many other non-Han languages in south China.

His research publications have focused on the historical connection between Chinese and Tai languages. He is currently working with researchers in China documenting Buyang, a lesser-known language spoken in southwest China, as part of a major research project, "Tai, Sino-Tai: the nature of Historical Relationship", funded by the Australian Research Council. He has also done work on grammatical descriptions of non-Han languages in south and southwest China. In addition, he has research links with a number of leading research institutions in China.

Dr Luo has an MA and a PhD in linguistics from the Australian National University. Before coming to Australia, he was a lecturer at Guangxi Normal University in China where he received a BA and a Graduate Diploma in English. He taught Chinese at the Australian National University for a number of years before taking up his position at the University of Melbourne.



DR EDWIN JURRIËNS
(Indonesian Program)

Dr Jurriëns' main research, teaching and postgraduate supervision skills and interests are in Southeast Asian media and art. He has a special interest in media ecology, or the study of the complex interactions between people and their communication and information environments. His research projects deal predominantly with media and art genres that critically analyse and seek to provide creative alternatives to mainstream media.

His current research project focuses on avant-garde artists and grassroots communities in Indonesia using video and other audio-visual media for the creative and critical reflection on, or expression of, pressing contemporary issues such as media literacy, television ownership and content, urban space, local history, and gender and body perceptions.

In his book From monologue to dialogue: radio and reform in Indonesia (KITLV Press, 2009), Dr Jurriëns analyses the role of local radio in Indonesia's transition to democracy. He is co-editor of Cosmopatriots: on distant belongings and close encounters (Rodopi, 2007), which focuses on Asian homeland and migrant artists and communities renegotiating the spatial, racial, bodily and sexual dimensions of belonging. His first book, Cultural travel and migrancy: the artistic representation of globalization in the electronic media of West Java (KITLV Press, 2004), examines how musicians and television and radio producers in Bandung, West Java, engage with the cultural dynamics of globalisation by mixing and reinventing local, national and international performing art genres.

Dr Jurriëns holds a PhD and Master's degrees in Literature and Indonesian Languages and Cultures from Leiden University. He is a member of the editorial board of Antropologi Indonesia (Indonesian Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology), Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta.



PROFESSOR THOMAS REUTER

(Future Fellow, ARC)

- Executive member, International Social Science Council (2013–2018)
- Senior Vice-President, International Union of Anthropological Sciences (2008–18)
- Chair, World Council of Anthropological Associations (2009–12)
- President (2002–2005) and fellow, Australian Anthropological Society

An internationally recognised anthropologist and Indonesia expert, Prof Reuter's Future Fellowship at the Asia Institute is entitled Religion and Spirituality in the Contemporary World: An Indonesian Case Study. The project explores how people today perceive their place in the world and their life's purpose, in the context of late modern societal conditions.

A new documentary on this research can be viewed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ROUljC5y88

Prof Reuter is also completing research on Indonesia's national political, economic, military and cultural elites and their interconnections. Other research explores global environmental challenges, climate change and food insecurity. Prof Reuter provides regular media commentary and has published over eighty academic articles and nine books. The most recent book is *Averting a Global Environmental Collapse: The Role of Anthropology and Local Knowledge* (Cambridge Scholars, in press).

HONORARY FELLOWS

The Asia Institute engages a number of Honorary Fellows all of whom are distinguished researchers in their fields.

Current Australian Research Council funded projects include:

- *The South East Barito languages in Indonesia and Madagascar: safeguarding their past and future* by Associate Professor Sander Adelaar
- *A third way between religion and secularism: New Southeast Asian Spiritualities* by Professor Joel Khan

Select Honorary Members of the Asia Institute

Associate Professor Alexander Adelaar

Honorary Principal Fellow

Professor David Holm

Honorary Professorial Fellow

Professor Joel Kahn

Professorial Fellow

Professor Allan Patience

Honorary Principal Fellow

Associate Professor Maila Stivens

Honorary Principal Fellow

Academic Staff Research Interests

Arabic & Islamic Studies

Dr Abdul Samad Abdullah

Arabic language and literature
Teaching Arabic for specific purposes
Linguistic analysis of Qur'anic discourse
Islam in west Africa and west African Arabic poetry
Arabic rhetoric and criticism

Dr Kylie Baxter

Contemporary Middle-Eastern and Islamic politics

Dr Muhammad Kamal

Modern Islamic thought
Muslim philosophy
Hegel and Heidegger philosophy

Dr Christina Mayer

Arabic language and literature
Language teaching for specific purposes
The role of magic in modern Arab societies

Professor Abdullah Saeed

Islamic thought: the negotiation of text and context, ijthad and interpretation
Islamic finance
Muslim communities in Australia
Islamic law and freedom of religion
Christian-Muslim relations
Islamic thought in Indonesia
Qur'anic hermeneutics
Islam and human rights

Asian Studies

Professor Pookong Kee

The causes, processes and consequences of the global movement of people
Asian diasporas
Asia-Pacific affairs

Dr Lewis Mayo

History of Chinese-Inner Asian Borderlands (including Tibet, Mongolia, Xinjiang), c700 to c2010
Non-human history (esp. social history of plants and animals) in the Asia-Pacific region
Medieval Chinese social history
Cultural capital and social power in contemporary China and in the Asia-Pacific region
Chinese settler cultures in Taiwan, Southeast Asia and the Pacific
Dunhuang studies

Chinese Studies

Dr Liping Du

Markets and marketing systems in China
Social aspects of economic behaviour
Chinese regional and local cultures
Traditional Chinese medical culture
Zhuang medical culture
Higher education in China

Associate Professor Jia Gao

The mainland Chinese migrant community in Australia
Applied sociological study of contemporary Chinese society

Dr Anthony Garnaut

Islam in China
Borderlands in late imperial and modern China
Peasant studies
Social history of the Chinese countryside
Comparative history of modern famines

Associate Professor Yongxian Luo

Historical comparative Tai linguistics
Sino-Tibetan linguistics
Historical Chinese linguistics
Southeast Asian linguistics
Semantics
Lexicography

Professor Anne McLaren
Chinese popular culture and fiction
The oral and ritual culture of Chinese women
Print media and popularisation in late imperial China
The revival of traditional art forms in contemporary China
Dr Sow Keat Tok
China's domestic politics and foreign policy
China's central-local relations
China-Taiwan and China-Hong Kong relations
Regional politics in Southeast Asia,
IPE and international politics in the Asia-Pacific
Professor Christine Wong
Public finance in China
China's central-local relations and governance implications
Economic and welfare development in China
Dr Shaoming Zhou
Chinese rituals
Chinese regional culture
Chinese system of ethics
Chinese popular culture (cinema)

Japanese Studies

Dr Sayuki Machida
Japanese as a foreign language
Language and culture
Intercultural communications
Text analysis and comprehension
Teaching methodologies
Dr Claire Maree
Language, gender sexuality and identity
Language in the media
Language and Japanese popular culture
Queer Theory and contemporary Japanese culture/society
Queer pedagogy (in language teaching)
Dr Ikuko Nakane
Language & law (Forensic linguistics)
Intercultural communication
Silence in communication
Dr Jun Ohashi
Language use from non-western perspectives
The discourse of international students
Cross-cultural / inter-language pragmatics
Social categorisation and agency
Face and politeness
Associate Professor Nana Oishi
International migration in Japan and Asia
Globalisation and transnationalism
Diversity, multiculturalism and social cohesion

Dr Etsuko Toyoda
Acquisition of Japanese as a second language
Japanese writing system
Interlanguage transfer of reading skills
Language learning and technology
Bilingualism
Metalinguistic awareness
Dr Yasuhisa Watanabe
Pragmatics
Face and politeness
Intercultural communication
Conversation and discourse analysis
Computer assisted language learning
Computer mediated communication
Second Language Acquisition Theory teaching methodologies

Indonesian Studies

Dr Michael Ewing
Discourse, grammar and conversation in Indonesian and Javanese
Language endangerment
Languages of Central Maluku
Austronesian linguistics
Language education
Language, culture and society
Dr Edwin Jurriëns
Media ecology
Mass media
Community media
New media art
Contemporary art
Dr Dave McRae
Contemporary Indonesian politics
Indonesian foreign policy
Australia–Indonesia relations
Regional security issues
Violent conflict
Human rights issues
Professor Thomas Reuter
The anthropology and politics of religion
Indonesian Studies (especially Java and Bali)
Comparative Southeast Asian and Pacific Studies
Ethnic minorities, marginality and representation
Social organisation, status and social justice
Anthropological theory and methodology
Mr Justin Wejak
Myths and rituals
Violence, memory and identity
Status and power
Religion (Catholicism) and Communism

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This profile of the Asia Institute published December 2014.

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