

# TIMOR-LESTE: CHALLENGES OF A NEW STATE IN THE ASIAN CENTURY

1 Day Conference: Monday 24 November 2014  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Science and Innovation Learning Centre (SILC),  
Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia



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inspiring achievement



**Timor-Leste**, the youngest state in the Asia-Pacific, faces four kinds of challenges.

**One**, the legacy of Timor-Leste's recent struggles for independence, statehood and national cohesion: how to create a capable state to unite the Timorese people and lead them to peace and prosperity?

**Two**, the key players in the region – Australia, China, Indonesia, and the US: how can Timor-Leste build relationships with these countries that enable it to play an active role in the 'Asian Century'?

**Three**, economic challenges: how to diversify and develop its economy and invest oil revenues wisely?

**Four**, and most importantly, human development issues: tackling unemployment and reaping the benefit of a young, fast growing population; empowering women, and adapting to environmental change.

Organised by the School of International Studies/Centre for United States and Asia Policy

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## Conference Schedule – Monday 24 November 2014

9:00 - 9:30 ACDT	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	Vice Chancellor Michael Barber and others
9:30-11:00	<b>Panel 1: Timor-Leste: becoming a nation-state</b>	
	Nation-Building beyond Independence: lessons from the 2006 Crisis	Associate Professor Michael Leach, Swinburne University
	Nation building and language policy	Dr Kerry Taylor-Leech, Griffith University
	Colonialism and the 1999 crisis	Dr Maryanne Kelton, Flinders University
11:00-11:30	<b>Morning tea/coffee break</b>	
11:30-13:00	<b>Panel 2: Peace, Security and International Relations</b>	
	Gender issues in post-conflict Timor-Leste: a case study of women's marginalisation in the Veterans' Valorisation Scheme	Dr Lia Kent, Australian National University (via Skype from Canberra)
	Key international relationships	Mr David Willis, Flinders University
	<i>Maritime Security Issues</i>	Ms Emily Bienvenue, Flinders University
13:00-13:45	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:45-14:45	<b>Panel 3: Resources, Trade, and Economic Policies</b>	
	The Political Economy of East Timor's oil dependency	Mr Paul Cleary, Australian National University (via Skype from Canberra)
	Timor Gap politics	Dr Michael Sullivan, Flinders University
14:45-15:15	<b>Afternoon tea/coffee break</b>	
15:15-16:45	<b>Panel 4: People, Livelihoods and Futures</b>	
	Nation building and the challenges of rapid population growth in Timor-Leste	Dr Udoy Saikia, Flinders University
	Youth, communication, and active citizenship	Ms Joana Sarvaia, Malmo University (via Skype from Timor-Leste)
	Food security and sustainable livelihoods	Ms Merve Hosgelen, Flinders University

# Presenters and Panellists

## Assoc. Professor Michael Leach



Michael Leach is Associate Professor in Politics and Public Policy at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. He has researched and published widely on the politics and history of Timor-Leste, and on nation-building and national identity in Timor-Leste and Melanesia. Recent publications

include (ed. with D. Kingsbury) of *The Politics of Timor-Leste: Democratic Consolidation after Intervention*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell Southeast Asia Program Publications, 2013. He is co-founder of the Timor-Leste Studies Association <http://tlstudies.org/>

## Dr Kerry Taylor-Leech



Dr Kerry Taylor-Leech lectures in Sociolinguistics at Griffith University, Queensland, Australia. Kerry's research explores the intersections between language policy, development, identity, educational opportunity and access to literacy in multilingual settings. Her involvement with East Timor dates from 2001 when she took up a teaching

position at the National University Timor Lorosa'e. Since then she has studied language policy development and other language issues, particularly in education, in this young nation. For details of her publications see <http://ktlweb.wordpress.com/>

## Dr Maryanne Kelton



Dr Maryanne Kelton is a senior lecturer in international relations at Flinders University. Her research interests include alliance relations, economic statecraft, defence procurement, and the utility of force.

## Dr Lia Kent



Dr Lia Kent is a Research Fellow based at the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia program at the Australian National University. Lia has longstanding research interests in the areas of post-conflict peace-building, reconciliation, transitional justice mechanisms, conflict, gender and human rights. She is particularly interested in the discursive

struggles that take place in post-conflict societies about how to remember and respond to the past, and how these relate to broader questions of citizenship and nation-building. Lia completed her PhD in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne in 2010 and her thesis was published as *The Dynamics of Transitional Justice: International Models and Local Realities in East Timor* (Routledge, 2012). She has published in journals including the *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, and in edited books.

## Mr David Willis



David Willis is an International Relations PhD Candidate at Flinders University. His research examines the linkages between Indonesian domestic politics and its foreign policy alignment. David was the recipient of the University Medal in 2012

# Presenters and Panellists

Ms Emily Bienvenue



Ms Bienvenue is a PhD candidate at Flinders University. Her research into international maritime diplomacy has received one of Flinders University's Best Student Paper Awards, a new initiative to recognize the reward student research across the campus.

Mr Paul Cleary



Mr Cleary is a senior writer at The Australian and the author of four books dealing public policy, history and international relations. In the mid-2000s he was an adviser to the Prime Minister of East Timor and took part in the Timor Sea negotiations.

Dr Michael Sullivan



Dr Sullivan is a lecturer in International Relations in the School of International Studies at Flinders University. He specialises in contemporary Chinese political economy and East Asian regionalism, and teaches in the Offshore Master of Arts program in partnership

with Nankai University in Tianjin.

Dr Udoy Saikia



Dr Saikia is Senior Lecturer and Director, Applied Population Studies at Flinders University. A Social Demographer with a postgraduate degree from London School of Economics, UK and PhD from Flinders University. His research interest covers population and development issues in the Asia and Pacific regions

Ms Joana Sarvaia

Ms Saraiva holds a degree in Social Communication/Major in Journalism (UFRGS, Brazil), a postgraduate degree on Poverty Reduction (CeDEP/SOAS, University of London) and a Masters in Communication for Development (Malmö University, Sweden). She worked as a reporter in Brazil for seven years before moving to Timor-Leste, where she has been based since 2008. In Timor-Leste, Joana has worked in the fields of communication, media development and training, political monitoring and analysis, and capacity building, for national and international organizations.

Ms Merve Hosgelen



Ms Hosgelen is a PhD candidate at Flinders University. Her research area is "Population Growth, Poverty and environmental sustainability in Timor-Leste: The Case of Forest Dependency and its Governance".