



Anthropology, Centre for South East Asian Studies & Monash Asia Institute

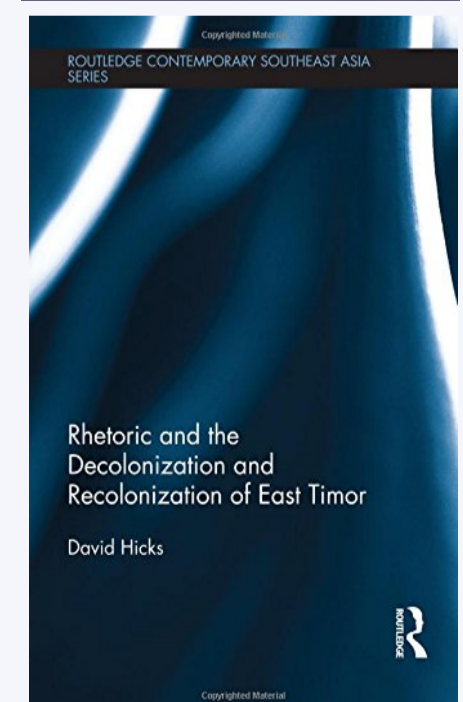
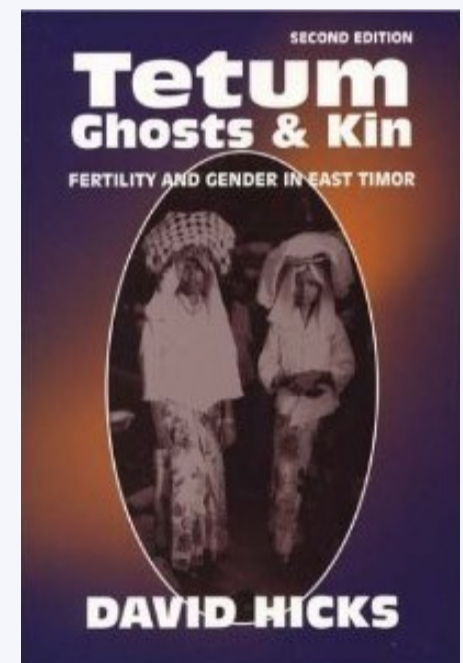
## National Imperatives, Local Values: the case of Timor-Leste

by Visiting Scholar Professor David B. Hicks, Stony Brook University, US

Professor Hicks' specialities are kinship systems, oral literatures, and ritual life of the people living in East Timor as well as in neighbouring Indonesia, in Flores. He has written five books, *Tetum Ghosts and Kin* (1976; 1988; 2004), *Structural Analysis in Anthropology* (1978), *A Maternal Religion, Kinship and Religion in Eastern Indonesia* (1984), and *Cultural Anthropology* (1996 with Margaret A. Gwynne). He has published articles in the *American Anthropologist*, *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Society*. In 2004-2005 he received a Fulbright Award to carry out field research and teach in the National University in East Timor.

In 1966-1967 he first visited Portuguese Timor and undertook 13 months of field research with his wife, Maxine Hicks, in the eastern region of Viqueque. The result of this research was two doctorates from the University of Oxford based on two dissertations (one on social organization and the other on ritual and belief) and the publication of *Tetum Ghosts and Kin* in 1976. An Indonesian edition of this book titled, *Roh Orang Tetum di Timor Timur* was published in 1988 by Penerbit Sinar Harapan. An updated English edition was published in 2004 based upon three further visits to independent Timor-Leste.

In 2015 he published *Rhetoric and the Decolonization and Recolonization of East Timor* which argues that during the 1974- 5 period the Timorese majority had little understanding of political events which can be better understood in terms of the contrast between the political culture of the capital Dili and the rest of the country. From this he draws lessons about how transformations in governance from the traditional to the legal can occur.



<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 16 Jun
<b>Time</b>	4 – 6pm
<b>Location</b>	Building H, Level 8, Room H8.05/6 Caulfield Campus, Monash University