



## Insights on West Papua

Thursday 28 November, 6.00 – 8.00pm

### Speakers

Dr Jacob Rumbiak  
Reverend James Bhagwan  
Dr Sophie Chao  
Hipolitus Y.R Wangge  
Associate Professor Chris Ballard  
Veronica Koman

### Location

Lecture Theatre 2,  
Hedley Bull Centre,  
130 Garran Road

### Registration

Via Eventbrite:  
<https://bit.ly/371RaJR>

**This panel discussion brings together diverse voices and scholarships to support and highlight the ongoing debates and struggles of West Papua.**

**Dr Jacob Rumbiak** is a West Papua academic, political leader and international spokesperson for the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP).

**Reverend James Bhagwan** is an ordained minister of the Methodist Church in Fiji, and General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches, representing approximately 80% of the Pacific people. He is a graduate of the Pacific Theological College and Methodist Theological University (Seoul) and is an advocate for climate justice - with particular emphasis on the ocean - gender equality, self-determination ecumenism and interreligious dialogue.

**Dr Sophie Chao** is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Sydney's School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry and the Charles Perkins Centre. Sophie completed a PhD at Macquarie University, based on ethnographic field work in West Papua examining deforestation and monocrop oil palm expansion and its reconfiguration of multispecies lifeworld of indigenous Marind communities. She is currently Secretary on the Executive Committee of the Australian Anthropological Association, and Co-Convenor of the Australian Food, Society, and Culture Network.

**Hipolitus Y.R Wangge** is a researcher in ethno-national conflicts, military politics and security studies in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region at the Marthinus Academy Jakarta. Commencing fieldwork in 2018 in Jayapura, Sorong, Fak-fak, and Wamena he has recently completed research on local civil society organizations in post-autonomy West Papua. Hipolitus has volunteered with internally displaced persons from Nduga due to the on-going armed conflict.

**Chris Ballard** is Associate Professor in Pacific History at the ANU, where his research interests focus on Indigenous forms of historical consciousness, community management of heritage, and the history of natural hazards. He first visited West Papua in 1987, but worked there more intensively from 1994-2001.

**Veronica Koman** is an Indonesian human rights lawyer focusing on issues in West Papua. Her clients include West Papuans charged with treason for peacefully demanding their right to self-determination. She is now wanted by the Indonesian police on politicised charges, forcing her to live in exile. She was awarded the 2019 Sir Ronald Wilson Human Rights Award.