

Gender & Cultural Diversity in Politics: Australia, Asia & the Pacific

ANU, Canberra, and online: 13-15 July, 2022
PROGRAM

(Tuesday 12th July: Pre-program activities)

Time	Session
1:00pm - 5:00pm	PhD and Early Career Researcher (ECR) workshop Our pre-program PhD and ECR workshop will offer PhD students and ECRs the opportunity to network, build linkages across institutions, and hear from panellists specifically about conducting research on gender and political leadership in the Asia-Pacific region. For pre-registered PhD and ECR participants.

Wednesday 13th July 2022

Time	Session
9:00am	Opening, Welcome to Country
9:30-11:00am	Panel session: ‘Generating Change by Generations of Women across Oceania’ This panel will engage Pacific women who have been prominent in promoting women’s interests in conversation with scholars who have been writing about women’s political engagement across Oceania. Women are still poorly represented in formal political institutions like parliaments – the Hon. Hilda Heine in the Marshall Islands and the Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata’afa in Samoa are the only female heads of government to date – but have been far more prominent in leadership roles in church organizations, regional organizations, NGOs and social movements. How is change generated across generations and how do the pervasive values of relational kinship and of Christianity influence the shape of women’s leadership? How has gender justice been woven together with concerns about peace and security and the contemporary climate crisis? And what can the rest of the world learn from Pacific traditions of women’s leadership? Panel convenors: Margaret Jolly and Kerryn Baker; Speakers: Dame Meg Taylor, President Hilda Heine, Professor Yvonne Underhill-Sem, Dr Salmah Eva-Lina Lawrence, Annie Kwai, Jennifer Kolpakas Doan.
11:00 – 11:15am	Morning tea

<p>11:15am - 12:45pm</p>	<p>Parallel Panel sessions</p> <p>Intersectionality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Alternative paths to politics: lessons from gender diverse ASEAN youth’, Elise Stephenson, (GIWL, ANU); • ‘Intersectional alliances open paths to politics for grassroots Pacific women’, Jane Alver [Cannot be moved past 2pm Thursday]; • ‘Intersectionality in Practice: Bridging the Gap in Climate Research, Advocacy and Action’, Betty Barkha, (IWDA, Monash University); • ‘Quietly Feminist’: a political biography of Samoa’s Prime Minister, Fiame Mata’afa’, Ceridwen Spark (RMIT), Peggy Dunlop and Jack Corbett. <p>Descriptive, symbolic and substantive representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘How do women from women-friendly political parties represent women in Tokyo?’, Emma Dalton (RMIT) and Hiroko Levy (La Trobe University); • ‘Comparing Women’s Substantive Representation in Ten Asian Parliaments’, Devin Joshi, (Singapore Management University); • ‘Substantive Representation of Women Parliamentarians and Gender Equality in Timor-Leste’; Sara Niner (Monash University) and Therese Tan (National University of Timor Leste); • No LONGER ABLE TO ATTEND, Jiso Yoon, (Korean Women’s Development Institute).
<p>12:45 – 1:30pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:30 – 3:00pm</p>	<p>Change Maker Panel Discussion: ‘Achieving Gender Parity in Political Leadership in Asia and the Pacific’</p> <p>How do we translate research on gender and political leadership into meaningful change? In this panel discussion, we speak with representatives from organisations that are actively working to support women’s leadership in Asia and the Pacific. What work are they doing? How do they use research and what future research is needed? What do successful researcher-practitioner partnerships look like?</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Salmah Eva-Lina Lawrence, Director of Systemic Change and Partnerships, International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA); • Ujjwal Krishna, Development Leadership Program, (La Trobe University); • Ishu Gupta, (Indian School for Democracy); • Dr Luong Thu Hien, Executive Director, (GeLead: Vietnam’s Center for Gender Studies and Women’s Leadership); • Lyn Morgain, Chief Executive, (Oxfam Australia).
<p>3:00 – 3:15pm</p>	<p>Afternoon Tea</p>

3:15 – 4:45pm	<p>Parallel Panel sessions</p> <p>Pathways to politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Women’s Political Pathways in Aceh, Indonesia: Between Femininity and Masculinity Approach’, Rizkika Lhena Darwin, (Islamic State University of Ar-Raniry, Darussalam, Banda Aceh, Indonesia); • “‘Asking” for a ticket: Women party members and lobbying for party nomination in India’, Rashmi Singh, (O.P Jindal Global University, Sonipat, India); • ‘Territories and Frontiers: Rethinking Women’s Participation in Grassroots Governance in Arunachal Pradesh, India’, Deepak Mishra, (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi); • ‘Strong women by male design? A critique of representations of female leadership in Philippine electoral politics’, Weena Jade Gera (University of the Philippines, Cebu) and Regina Macalandag (ANU). <p>Rethinking key terms and practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Women's Rights and Democratization in South Asia: The Gender of Democracy: Case Study from Nepal’, Aashiyana Adhikari (Centre for South Asian Studies, Nepal); • ‘Silences in India’s Nuclear Tests’, Shreya Singh, (The University of Queensland); • ‘Empathic recognition as transformation: Reimagining efforts to end poverty in all its forms’, Regina Macalandag (ANU) and Sharon Bessel, (ANU); • ‘Agency and participation beyond symbolic representation in political spaces and political institutions in the Global South’, Dipti Tamang, (Darjeeling Government College, India).
5:00 – 6:30pm	<p>ANU Gender Institute: Public Forum</p> <p>DISRUPTIONS, INNOVATIONS AND DEPARTURES: GENDER AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</p> <p>The problem of heteronormative, masculine, ‘white’ political dominance in Australia is an enduring one. As our knowledge grows and our actions become louder, subtle and explicit resistances to gender equality in political leadership have similarly flourished. We need to be nimble, imaginative and innovative to revitalise our arguments and find fresh approaches to challenging the status quo. Yet our disruptive potential is curbed by over-reliance on analytical and theoretical models from Euro-America and the siloing of academic literature into disciplinary parochialisms. This Public Forum aims to refresh our thinking by centring scholarship, theory and feminist action from Asia and the Pacific, drawing out lessons to challenge and disrupt structures of political domination in Australia, and globally.</p> <p><i>Introduced by Fiona Jenkins, (ANU Gender Institute) and facilitated by Sonia Palmieri (Dept. of Pacific Affairs, ANU)</i></p>

	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Orovu Sepoe: Independent Consultant, Papua New Guinea • Dr Ramona Vijayarasa: University Technology Sydney • Prof Margaret Jolly: Australian National University • Professor Srila Roy: University of the Witwatersrand
<p>Thursday 14th July 2022</p>	
9:00 – 10:30am	<p>Panel sessions</p> <p>Praxis Panel: ‘Disrupting the Eurocentricity of feminist foreign policy’</p> <p>This interactive workshop will provide a critical opportunity to co-create a vision for an Australian feminist foreign policy which is responsive to the experience, priorities and leadership of women from Asia and the Pacific. The workshop is being conducting by the International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA), who have conducted research and consultations with women’s rights activists from around the world to better understand what FFP could mean for Australia, and is now convening an advocacy coalition towards an Australian FFP.</p> <p>Convenors: Liz Gill-Atkinson, IWDA and Alice Ridge, IWDA</p> <p>Rethinking concepts and methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Serving two systems: weaving a Pacific narrative into women’s underrepresentation in politics’, Dr Mema Motusaga (Samoan researcher) and Elise Howard (ANU); • ‘Everyday stories: Understanding women’s access to political spaces and machinery’, Theresa Meki (ANU) and Almah Tararia (ANU); • ‘Capturing the lived experience of women political leaders in Asia and the Pacific: Challenges for non-traditional researchers’, Sonia Palmieri (ANU), Melissa Maclean, Camilla Batalibasi, Geraldine Valei and Chandy Eng (IWDA); • “True freedom is inside ourselves”: Locating agency and activism in colonial-era Sumatran women’s publications’, Bronwyn Beech Jones (The University of Melbourne). – no longer presenting
10:30 – 10:45am	<p>Morning tea</p>
10:45am – 12:15pm	<p>Panel sessions</p> <p>Gender and Political Leadership in Indonesia</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'The paradox of domestication: affective experiences, women's political leadership and matrifocality in West Timor, Eastern Indonesia', Longgina Novadona Bayo (The University of Melbourne); • 'Approaches to women's leadership and growing intolerance in Indonesia: Anthropological and alternative feminist perspectives on women's subjectivity', Angie Bexley and Eva Nisa (ANU); • 'Brokerage, Power and Gender Inclusion: How Empowerment-Focused Civil Society Organisations Bolster Women's Influence in Rural Indonesia', Rachael Diprose (The University of Melbourne); • 'Getting to the Top: Career Paths of Female Ministers in Post-Suharto Indonesia', Ella Prihatini (Bina Nusantara (BINUS) University, Jakarta) and Athiqah Alami (Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), Jakarta)
	<p>Politics from Asia (Online panel)</p> <p><i>Note: this online panel session will be split into two, with a ten-fifteen minute break in between</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Domesticating the 'fire-brand' Uma Bharati: Intersectional Silences in Hindutva Politics', Nandita Banerjee Dhawan (Jadavpur University, Kolkata); • 'Gender, Media, and Politics: A Comparative Analysis of Gendered Mediation of Women Politicians in East Asia', Jaemin Shim (Hong Kong Baptist University); • 'The Politics of Women Leadership in Pakistani Academia', Rabia Ali (International Islamic University, Islamabad); • 'Toward a Self-limiting Movement? Feminist Advocacy in Times of Political Uncertainty', Ruby YS Lai (Lingnan University, Hong Kong); • 'Emotional Labor in Parliament: A Comparative Study of the Gender Gap in Emotional Displays', Sejin Khoo (Inha University, Korea) and Willy Jou (Waseda University).
12:15 – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30pm	<p>Panel sessions</p> <p>Spaces for political / feminist action beyond formal politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Grassroots activism in tourism and hospitality: Disabled and disenfranchised women in Nepal', Wendy Hillman (CQU); • 'Gendered narratives and practices of control in the household, the workplace and unions in Cambodia', Kristy Ward (SSEAC, The University of Sydney); • "'A rapist in your path": art activism and the mobilisation of women', Pilar Kasat (Curtin University); • 'Protesting for or with social media? Indonesian youth citizens and jocular visuals', Annisa Beta (The University of Melbourne). <p>Gender and ethnicity in political institutions and movements: from Asia to Australia</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Mind the gap – representation of women in Australian parliaments’, Surjeet Dogra Dhanji (The University of Melbourne); • ‘Diversity in Australia’s Political Parties’, Anika Gauja (The University of Sydney); • ‘Community-led democratic mending: women and the rise of ‘voices for’ movements across Australia’, Carolyn M. Hendriks (ANU) • ‘Innocent Young Girls’: The search for female provincial leaders in China’ by Minglu Chen
2:30 – 4:00pm	<p>Strategic research priorities for the Global Institute for Women’s Leadership (GIWL), ANU</p> <p>The ANU is the international base of the Global Institute for Women’s Leadership, adding an Asian-Pacific perspective to GIWL’s stated objectives. In partnership with King’s College Institute, GIWL ANU seeks to bridge the gap between those who generate evidence, and those who wish to use it.</p> <p>In 2022, GIWL ANU, will be developing strategic priorities in research, advocacy and engagement, and practice. We invite you to a workshop led by Professor Michelle Ryan, Director of GIWL, to have your say into the future priorities and strategic directions of the Institute.</p>
4:00 – 5:00pm	<p>Praxis panel: ‘National Congress of Women of Colour in Australia NaCWOCA’</p> <p>NCWoCA sees beyond “access and equity” and strives to contest and transform structures of colonial white supremacy, gender and racial capitalism that force Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and migrant-background women of colour to the margins of political and civic leadership and influence in Australia. This panel will discuss interventions to dismantle processes of white supremacy that block our leadership, including: governance and funding models; collective vision for authentic, racially just feminist leadership; race-critical intersectional analyses to inform strategies to build deeper democracies; legal funds and other protections to defeat public and private attacks on public-facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and women of colour.</p> <p>Convenors: Nilmini Fernando (Secretary) and Alexandra Kaur Bhathal, National Congress of Women of Colour in Australia NaCWOCA</p> <p>Panellists: Alex Bhathal, La Trobe University Social Work and Social Policy; Inez Winters; Jacyntha Krakouer, Monash University, Health and Social Care Unit; Jatinder Kaur; Dr Nilmini Fernando, Griffith University, Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research; Dr Trish Mitra-Kahn Saly Alman; Talei Richards</p> <p>Informal discussion on collaborative possibilities – Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>We invite participants working in Asia and the Pacific to an informal discussion on next steps. We will explore collaborative possibilities that have arisen from the preceding days discussions, such as publications (edited collection, special issue), grant opportunities, and the potential to establish a research coalition on researchers and practitioners working on gender and political leadership in Asia and the Pacific.</p>
5:00 – 6:30pm	<p>Break & Informal discussion on collaborative possibilities – Australian politics</p>

	We invite participants working on gender and cultural diversity representation in Australian politics to an informal discussion on future collaboration, mapping out an agenda to make research translate into action. We can continue discussions over dinner.
6:30pm	Dinner
Friday 15th of July 2022	
9:00 – 9:30am	<p>Opening remarks on Asian-Australian representation and cultural diversity leadership in Australian politics By Yasmin Poole (National Ambassador, Plan International; Chair, Victorian Government Youth Congress; 2021 Youth Influencer of the Year, The Martin Luther King Jr Center; 2020 ANU Undergraduate Volunteer of the Year; Rhodes Australia-at-Large Scholar 2022).</p> <p>Introduced by Jieh-Yung Lo, Director, ANU Centre for Asian-Australian Leadership</p>
9:30 – 11:00am	<p>Panel session</p> <p>‘Rethinking Asian-Australian Leadership: politics and positionalities’ What is at stake in re-thinking Asian-Australian leadership? In this panel we open up a conversation about how leadership can be reconceptualised away from dominant Euro-American models that centre on corporatised models of individualism and neo-liberalism. How is leadership envisaged in other sectors such as community activism, the media, and in the political sphere? Here we would like to look at representation both in terms of marginalised models, as well as those that have been accorded a space in mainstream politics and the public sphere. How do different genealogies of ‘arrivals’ and self-identifications on the part of Asian-Australians play into these conversations, and may either be co-opted or not considered in the larger imaginary of the settler nation? What is at stake in revisiting these genealogies in an increasingly liquid world where the nuance necessary for representative performances and politics may be lost?</p> <p>Speakers: Jacqueline Lo, The University of Adelaide; Olivia Khoo, Monash University; Mridula Nath Chakraborty, Monash University</p>
11:00 – 11:15am	Morning Tea
11:15am – 12:45pm	<p>Parallel session</p> <p>Approaches to improving diversity in representation and political participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Creating belonging through politics? Experiences of Bhutanese refugee women in regional Australia’, Mona Chettri (The University of Western Australia/ Australia India Institute); • ‘Women in politics: How to increase their participation and representation?’, Aleksandra Luksyte (The University of Western Australia), Winny Shen (York University), Martina Ucnikova and Fiona Lander (She Runs Inc) • ‘How political skills can improve cultural representation’, Wesa Chau (Swinburne University). • ‘TBC’ Charishma Kaliyanda (Councillor for Liverpool) <p>Diversity and diversity data: a focus on local government</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity data in local government: Sonya Cochrane, Office for Local Government • ‘Ethnicity? Culture? Race? Heritage? Dealing with Difference in “Diversity Data?”’, Amrita Malhi (ANU). • ‘From Online Trolls to ‘Slut Shaming’: A Study of Gender Abuse in Local Government’, Andrea Carson (La Trobe University), Gosia Milolajczak (GIWL, ANU; The University of Melbourne) and Leah Ruppner (The University of Melbourne); • Breaking the ‘male, pale and stale’ mould of local government: reflections on the 2021 NSW Council Elections, Tanya Jakimow (ANU)
12:45 – 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00pm	<p>Change Maker Panel Discussion: ‘Achieving Diversity in Australian Politics’</p> <p>In this panel, we speak with representatives from organisations challenging the dominance of heteronormative, masculine and white political opportunity structures in Australia, and who are seeking leadership opportunities for women, particularly women of ‘colour’. We will discuss why it has proven so difficult to diversify Australia’s political landscape, and what research and action we need to achieve change.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kat Henaway, Politics in Colour; • Brenda Gaddi, Women of Colour Australia; • Pilar Kasat, Women of Colour Australia; • Licia Heath, Women for Election; • Ally Dench, Executive Director, Office of Local Government
3:00 – 3:30pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30 – 5:00pm	<p>Where to from here?</p> <p>A panel discussion with some of the key thinkers/activists working to increase the diversity of the Australian political landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘At the back of the pack: explaining Australia’s comparative underrepresentation of people of colour in politics’, Osmond Chiu, (Research Fellow PerCapita); • ‘Shaken Not Stirred: Uplifting Australia’s Next Generation in Politics’, Kim Ly Nguyen (founder of Next Gen Movement); • ‘The New Second Generation demands more diversity’, Sukhmani Khorana (Western Sydney University); • Speaker TBC
5:30 – 7:00pm	<p>Centre for Asian-Australian Leadership in Conversation event: ‘Navigating Australian Politics as a Woman of ‘Colour’</p> <p>What are the experiences of women navigating politics in Australia? How are these experiences shaped not only by gender, but also ‘race’, ethnicity, sexuality, religion and other markers of ‘difference’ from the ‘norm’ in Australian politics. In this ‘in conversation’ event, we will speak to women of non-European ancestry who have successfully navigated hostile political terrains to occupy positions of political</p>

	<p>leadership, in each level of representative government. What can we learn from their experiences, and successes, in order to radically change the Australian political landscape to make it more reflective, and representative, of Australia’s population?</p> <p>Conversation facilitated by Jieh-Yung Lo, Director of the Centre for Asian-Australian Leadership, ANU</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Elizabeth Lee MLA Member for Kurrajong, Liberal Leader ACT Legislative Assembly; • Cr Ola Hamed, Labor councillor, Cumberland Council, NSW; • Hon. Jenny Leong MP, Greens Member for Newtown; • Hon. Dr Anne Aly MP, Member for Cowan.
7:00pm	Closing Drinks
END OF PROGRAM	
<p>Saturday 16th July, 10am – Informal brunch: continuing the conversation</p> <p>For anyone with the stamina, an informal brunch will be organised as another opportunity to discuss collaborative possibilities and next steps</p>	