Cover Image: Pragati Bajracharya, WaterAid, Women from Manuquibia (Timor-Leste) conduct a transect walk to gather information about their community as part of research undertaken by International Women’s Development Agency and WaterAid.
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About the theme

As we celebrate the achievements of the BRICs, as debate unfolds on the shape of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and as we note aggregate gains in material indicators of poverty, we are nonetheless faced with the knowledge that inequality in multiple manifestations has persisted and in some cases worsened. While the development community turns its attention to shaping new SDGs, this ACFID University Network Conference brings together academics and practitioners to address Evidence and practice in an age of inequality. Built on the success of past conference themes and discussions, this conference creates a space for researchers and practitioners to surface inequality focused research and discuss the practical challenges of inequality.

Inequality is not confined to income or material inequality, but also extends to interrelated issues of access to vital resources including health, education, and justice. Inequality's reach across the globe is enmeshed with issues of gender, disability, people living with HIV and AIDS, age, sexual orientation, religion and ethnic minorities. Evidence and practice are key tools to better grasp the complexity of inequality, and put forward insightful solutions to tackle it.

This conference aims to address what inequality means, what we actually know about it and in turn, how this knowledge affects development policy and practice.

About the ACFID University Network

The ACFID University Network is just that – a Network! It is an Australian based network of practitioners, researchers and evaluators working in international development.

The Network exists to stimulate and support collaborative partnerships between academia and NGOs by:

• Improving research practice and training that delivers demonstrable impacts in overcoming poverty and injustice;
• Being an information sharing platform to advise and develop guidance for Network members to support ethical and effective development research;
• Cultivating working relationships between NGOs and academia active and interested in issues surrounding international development, development research and global social justice.

The ACFID University Network Conferences have become anticipated events in the Australian aid and development sector. The aim of the conferences is to provide a forum that supports greater collaboration between researchers and practitioners in international development from across Australia and the region. Conferences have become valuable events to explore potential collaboration, share ideas of key emerging issues and debates in the development research community.

The Network is supported by ACFID as the peak Council for aid and development NGOs working in Australia and governed through the ACFID University Network Committee. The Committee consists of leaders in development research, practice and training from ACFID member NGOs and affiliated Universities.

To find out more and join the Network, visit the ACFID table in H1.16.
Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following people and organisations for their contributions and support to the conference.

Program Committee
Dr Samantha J. Gunawardana (Monash University and Conference Co-convenor) Dr Violeta Schubert (University of Melbourne) Dr John Cox (ANU) Dr Tahl Kestin (Monash Sustainability Institute) Prof. Matthew Clarke (Deakin University) Dr Gillian Fletcher (La Trobe University) Dr Nichole Geogeou (Australian Catholic University) Meghan Cooper (ACFID and Conference Co-convenor) David Shaw (WaterAid Australia) Katherine Gilbert Rebecca Spratt Sophie Plumridge (Australian Disability and Development Consortium) Casey McCowan (Action Aid Australia) Denise Cauchi (Diaspora Action Australia)

Staff
Jessica Loschiavo (Monash University) Sophie Green (ACFID) Sharon Elliott (Monash University) Yasmin Chilmeran (Monash University)

Student Forum
Dr Bruce Missingham (Monash University) Duong Quy Do (Monash University) Brendan Rigby (Melbourne University) Allison Clarke (Monash University)

Conference moderator
Prof. Jacqui True (Monash University)

Volunteers
Ivette Yanez Soria Maria Saltapidas Jessica Littelwood Jeevika Vivekananthan Vasanthi Rajakulathungage Astrid Meset Rachel Kurzyp Xuan Nguyen David Knack Jessica Sharma Liana Zordan Rendi Afrian

Sponsors
Faculty of Arts, Monash University Oxfam Australia Fred Hollows Foundation Oxfam-Monash Partnership Institute of Sustainable Futures, UTS ChildFund Australia Deakin University ADRA Australia Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University International Women’s Development Agency World Vision Australia Centre for Global Research, RMIT University

Partners
Why Dev Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
Keynote and Plenary Speakers

Prof. Martin Ravallion, Georgetown University

Martin Ravallion holds the inaugural Edmond D. Villani Chair of Economics at Georgetown University, prior to which he was the Director of the World Bank's research department. He has advised numerous governments and international agencies on poverty and policies for fighting it, and he has written extensively on this and other subjects in economics, including four books and 200 papers in scholarly journals and edited volumes.

His latest book, The Economics of Poverty, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2015. He is President-elect of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality, a Senior Fellow of the Bureau for Research in Economic Analysis of Development, a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, USA, and a non-resident Fellow of the Center for Global Development. Amongst various prizes and awards, in 2012 he was awarded the John Kenneth Galbraith Prize from the American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. Martin will deliver a keynote address.

Yen Vo, Disability Research and Development Centre Viet Nam

Yen Vo is the Founder of the Disability Research and Development Center (DRD) in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam and a lecturer at the Ho Chi Minh City Open University in the Department of Social Work. Yen is also the founder and chair of the Vietnam network of 35 disabled people organizations since 2011 and a committee member of the Vietnam Federation on Disability.

In 2010 Yen received The President’s Call to Service Award of the U.S. government, in recognition of those individuals who make a difference through volunteer service. In 2009 she was named winner of the Kazuo Itoha Prize (Japan) for her outstanding work in developing resources to enable persons with disabilities in Vietnam to participate in society and promote their equal opportunities.

Yen is currently an Australian Leadership Awardee working on her PhD in Social Work and Social Policy at La Trobe University with an interest in empowerment of youth with disabilities. Yen completed her Masters in Applied Behaviour Analysis from the University of Kansas in 2004. After completing her PhD in Australia, Yen would like to develop DRD into an institute to conduct research and provide training/education on social work and disability in Vietnam, especially for social work students and working social workers. Yen will be participating on a panel discussion about experiences of inequality in the region.

Zakia Baig, Australian Hazara Women's Friendship Network

Zakia Baig is a human rights activist from Pakistan and the Founding Director of the Australian Hazara Women’s Friendship Network. Zakia is passionate about combating gender inequality and promoting women’s empowerment through education and skills development.

Zakia obtained a Bachelor of Arts with majors in English Literature and Political Science in Quetta, Pakistan, and was a teacher and founder of a women’s centre in Pakistan before moving to Australia. Zakia arrived in Australia in 2006.
as an overseas student, mother of two and among the thousands of Hazaras who left their homes to escape persecution in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In Australia she worked in hospitality before founding the Australian Hazara Women’s Friendship Network in 2013. Since this time, she has become a recognised community leader and a strong advocate for community and women’s rights. On Australia Day in 2013, Zakia won an SBS competition My Community Matters, an honour that was recognized by former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard. In 2014, Zakia was awarded a Minorities Fellowship in Geneva from the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. Zakia will be speaking about her work on gender inequality in Pakistan and with the Australian Hazara Women’s Friendship Network as an activist in the Australian diaspora community.

**Fenton Lutunatabua, 350.org Pacific**

Fenton Lutunatabua is currently Pacific Communications Coordinator and Field Organiser with 350.org. He is also a trained facilitator. He graduated from the University of the South Pacific in 2012 with his Bachelor of Arts (double major in Journalism and Applied Psychology). He has extensive experience in the media industry — in Broadcasting, Print Media, Television and new media. Fenton has a good understanding of the media landscape, is an excellent communicator, has informed empathy and bravely and ambitiously searches for opportunities to develop his journalistic capacity.

**Ei Shwe Yi Win, CARE International Myanmar**

Ei Shwe Yi Win is the Program Director of the Socially Marginalized People program at CARE International in Myanmar. She has worked for CARE for almost 8 years and is responsible for developing and refining the Socially Marginalized People program strategy. She is also responsible for ensuring that all interventions under this program are of a high technical quality and lead to significant and lasting changes for socially marginalized people. Ei has worked with people who are socially shunned and extremely vulnerable living in the outskirts of urban areas. She has also engaged in dealings with Government, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society organizations to advocate on behalf of socially marginalized people. More importantly, Ei takes the lead in working with local partner organizations related to the program and she is dedicated to helping them grow their capabilities and networks. Ei will take part in a plenary panel discussion speaking about her work with CARE in understanding the lives and addressing the needs of female sex workers in Myanmar.

**Paul Nichols, WaterAid Australia**

Paul Nichols is Chief Executive of WaterAid Australia. He is one of Australia’s leading international community development practitioners, having worked with non-government, private sector and government organisations for over 25 years. He has most recently been a senior executive in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade responsible for the aid program to South Asia. He previously worked as an independent consultant, was Managing Director at the Oxfam-owned contractor International Development Support Services Pty Ltd, and served in various management roles at World Vision. Paul has worked with communities, local organisations and government institutions across the Pacific, Asia and Africa and has engaged in training, facilitation and strategic planning across the Australian NGO sector. Paul will be speaking about WaterAid Australia’s work on equity and inclusion in a plenary discussion panel.
Helen Szoke, Oxfam Australia

Dr Helen Szoke is a human rights advocate and Chief Executive of Oxfam Australia since January 2013. Prior to this appointment, she served as Australia’s Federal Race Discrimination Commissioner, following seven years as the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner.
Helen is currently an appointed member of the C20 advisory group and Co-Chair of Make Poverty History. She is both an Executive Committee member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and the ACFID Humanitarian Reference Group (HRG) Champion, representing the work of the HRG which provides a mechanism for Australian agencies engaged in humanitarian assistance work to share information, strengthen coordination, and drive policy dialogue and development for the improvement of humanitarian relief work. Helen is also a member of the Deakin University Master of International and Community Development Advisory Board and also sits on the Executive Board of Oxfam International.
In 2011, Helen was awarded the ‘Law Institute of Victoria Paul Baker Award’ for her contribution to human rights. In 2014 she received the ‘University of Melbourne Alumni Award’ for leadership. Helen has extensive experience in management, community development, organisational development, consumer advocacy and regulation in the education and health sectors. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a fellow of the Institute of Public Administration. Helen will be a plenary panellist speaking about Oxfam's work on inequality and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Miki Wali, FemLINK Pacific and Haus of Khameleon Fiji

Miki Wali was recently the chair of the Young Women’s Caucus and involved in drafting the Young Women’s statement recently at the 59th Session on the Commission on the Status of women, which coincided with the 20th anniversary of the BeijingPlatform for Action. Miki is 25 years old and is a Trans Feminist Activist, Youth and Women’s Human Defender and also a climate change Warrior for the Pacific Region.
Miki works as a Community Producer and Broadcaster/Researcher for a women’s human rights regional organization – FemLINK Pacific. She also is part of the Management Collective of the Haus of Khameleon, a youth transgender feminist led organization. She also is the current public relations officer for the National Youth Council of Fiji and she is also part of other national, regional and international committees. Miki aspires to become a Jurist/Politician/Environmentalist/Journalist and an established poet. Follow her on twitter:@MikiWali

Emma Samman, Overseas Development Institute, UK

Emma Samman is a Research Fellow and Team Leader of Poverty Data and Analysis at Overseas Development Institute. She has experience in the analysis of poverty and inequality, the human development approach, survey design and the use of subjective indicators to inform development policy. She has also worked on the socio-economic effects of market development and the effects of space (and segregation) upon wellbeing. She has field experience in Chile, Philippines, Tanzania and Viet Nam.
Prior to joining ODI in 2011, Emma has worked for the Human Development Report Office (UNDP), Institute of Development Studies (IDS, University of Sussex), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Trinity College (University of Dublin) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). She has also undertaken consultancy assignments for Agrifood Consulting
International, Oxfam International, Twaweza Initiative, UNDP and UNICEF. Emma will be a plenary panellist speaking about the findings of the ODI Development Progress Program and their relevance for both inequality and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Joanna Spratt, ANU

Joanna Spratt is a PhD candidate at the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University (ANU). Her thesis uses a policy studies lens to explore actors, institutions and ideas involved in New Zealand foreign aid policy change. Prior to this, Joanna was a nurse, before engaging in international development work with NGOs and as a consultant. Since 2004 Joanna has participated in policy advocacy and projects to promote universal sexual and reproductive health, particularly in the Pacific. Alongside her PhD she currently coordinates NZ Aid and Development Dialogues - a network that expands analysis and discussion of NZ international aid and development work.

Thulsi Narayansamy, AidWatch

Thulsi Narayanasamy is the Director of Aid/Watch, Australia independent monitor of foreign aid and trade. She is passionate about focusing on the structural causes of poverty and injustice and worked for a number of aid organisations in Australia and the UK managing international programs before moving onto advocacy work in India and Mexico with a focus on land rights. Thulsi has also been involved in refugee activism and advocacy work and now works to reform Australia’s aid and trade policies to ensure they serve people’s needs rather than Australia’s commercial interests.

Assoc. Prof. Chris Roche, Institute of Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University

Chris Roche is the Chair in International Development & Senior Research Partner with the Developmental Leadership Program, Associate Professor & Director of the Institute for Human Security and Social Change at La Trobe University. Chris has over 25 years’ experience working for International NGOs as a project manager, evaluator, policy researcher and as a Director. He joined La Trobe in 2012 and is the convenor of the Masters of International Development, Director of the Institute for Human Security and Social Change & Senior Research Partner with the Developmental Leadership Program. He is particularly interested in understanding how social change happens, who is involved, and how the effectiveness of attempts to promote change is assessed. Chris is keen to develop new linkages between academia and development agencies and is keen to hear ideas and proposals about how best to make this happen.
Brendan Rigby, University of Melbourne

Brendan Rigby is an education and development specialist currently completing a PhD at the University of Melbourne’s Graduate School of Education. He is also one of the founders and directors of whydev.org. Brendan is studying the literacy practices of out-of-school children in Ghana & Myanmar, using participatory photography to document their transition through a Complementary Basic Education program into formal schooling. He is also a consultant for Plan International, Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and UNICEF. Formally, Brendan was an Education Officer with UNICEF in Ghana and Director of Venture Support for StartSomeGood. He writes about literacy, globaldev and schooling at ill-literate and tracks down NFL jerseys in Ghana at jersey, sure.

Ricardo Fuentes-Nieva

Ricardo Fuentes-Nieva is the head of research for Oxfam GB. He manages a team delivering high profile research in support of Oxfam’s global campaigns. He has driven the intellectual work behind Oxfam’s campaign against extreme inequality. This includes co-authoring Working for the Few and doing the statistical analysis behind the fact that 85 richest people control as much wealth as the bottom half of the world’s population.

Prior to joining Oxfam, he worked with UNDP where he recently led the production of the first Africa Human Development Report. He co-authored several global Human Development Reports as well as the World Bank’s World Development Report 2010 and is currently collaborating with the new assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Before joining UNDP, he worked in the Ministry of Social Development in Mexico and the research department of the Inter-American Development Bank.

He has conducted research on food security, climate change, social security and social policy, regional development, income, poverty, and inequality. He graduated with honors from CIDE in Mexico City and earned a master’s degree in Economics from Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Spain. Ricardo was a keynote speaker during the pre-conference student forum on 3 June.

Conference moderator: Prof. Jacqui True, Monash University

Jacqui True is Professor of Politics & International Relations and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow at Monash University, Australia. She received her PhD from York University, Toronto, Canada and has held academic positions at Michigan State University, the University of Southern California, and the University of Auckland. She is specialist in Gender and International Relations.

Her articles on gender mainstreaming and global governance and feminist research methodologies rank among the most highly cited in the field. Her current research is focused on the prevention of mass sexual violence in Asia Pacific and the political economy of post-conflict violence against women.

## Program

**DAY 1 - THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2015**

*Framing the issue - What do we know about inequality and how do we know it?*

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presentation Title and Speakers</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30</td>
<td>Registration and arrival coffee and tea</td>
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</table>
| 9.00   | Plenary session | 1. Auntie Diane Singh – Acknowledgement to country  
2. Jacqui True - Conference Moderator  
3. Rae Frances, Dean Faculty of Arts, Monash University  
4. Sam Mostyn, President, Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) | K309 Theatre    |
|        |         | **Keynote address:** Global inequality: Are the World’s Poorest Being Left Behind? - Martin Ravallion, Georgetown University |                |
|        |         | Q&A with conference moderator, Jacqui True |                |
| 10.30  | Morning Tea | |                |
| 11.00  | Session 1 | Inequality and education  
**Chair:** Matthew Clarke, Deakin University  
1. A Crisis of Learning or A Crisis of Evidence? The Pacific Literacy and School Leadership Programme – Rebecca Spratt, University of Auckland  
2. “Count me in?” What and who counts as data in a literacy intervention program in northern Ghana – Brendan Rigby, University of Melbourne  
3. How community empowerment and accountability interventions can address inequalities in primary education – Bill Walker, World Vision Australia  
4. Inequality in Female Education within the SAARC region - Venesser Fernandez, Monash University | HB.32           |
|        | Session 2 | Class and inequality in the Pacific  
**Chair:** John Cox, ANU  
1. Equity in the Pacific - Stephen Close and Jesse Doyle, World Bank  
2. The political and developmental role of the middle classes in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste - John Cox and Julien Barbara, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program (SSGM), ANU and Michael Leach, Swinburne University  
3. Intersections of Class, Age and Gender in Melanesia - Ceridwen Spark, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program (SSGM), ANU | HB.36           |
|        | Session 3 | WORKSHOP: Gender, Sexuality and Disadvantage: Intimately entwined, but perpetually divorced within international development?  
**Lead:**  
1. Valentina David, Family Planning Organisation of the Philippines  
2. Gary Dowsett, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University  
3. Dr Gillian Fletcher, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University  
4. Dr Nicola Henry, La Trobe University  
5. Napoleon Hernandez, Family Planning Organisation of the Philippines  
6. Maroz Ramos, GALANG | H2.22           |
| Session 4 | Inequality and economic empowerment  
**Chair:** Jane Hutchison, Murdoch University  
1. Re-thinking Gender Inequalities in Households – Bina Fernandez, University of Melbourne  
2. Gender equality in pro-poor rural value chains and micro-finance: Case study of post -conflict Mozambique – Michaela Cosijn, CSIRO  
3. Addressing Economic Inequality: Women’s Empowerment in Value Chains – Grace Nicholas, ActionAid Australia  
4. From Financial Exclusion to Inclusion: It’s not just about access to credit – Gillian McIlwain Good Shepherd Microcredit |
| --- | --- |
| Session 5 | Diasporas: marginal voices or innovators of the new development landscape?  
**Chair:** Dr Charles Mphande, Victoria University  
1. The migration-development nexus and Australia’s diaspora - Louise Olliff, University of Melbourne  
2. Afghanistan in transition: challenges and opportunities for women and girls - Dr Nouria Salehi OAM, Executive Director, Australian Afghan Development Organisation  
3. Diaspora-led development: what does it contribute to understandings of inequality? - Denise Cauchi, Diaspora Action Australia |
| Session 6 | Governance, security and inequality  
**Chair:** Casey McCowan, ActionAid Australia  
1. Increasing governance effectiveness through inclusion - Linda Kelly, La Trobe University and Susan Ferguson, DFAT  
2. Strengthening Equity in Global Governance: the example of the UN Security Council - John Langmore, University of Melbourne  
3. “One man, one vote”, but not necessarily equal - Understanding democratisation, development and security in Timor-Leste - Emily Toome, RMIT University  
4. Quantification as Obfuscation: Critically Analysing the Resistance Toward Postcolonial States’ Approaches to Gender Equity in Peacekeeping – Lesley Pruitt, RMIT University |
| Session 7 | WORKSHOP: Just development: addressing injustice & inequality, a practical perspective  
**Lead:** Phil Lindsay, TEAR Australia; Jamieson Davies, Caritas Australia; and Mark McPeak, ChildFund Australia |

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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| 13.30 | Plenary Session  
**Plenary panel:** Not just a discourse – Responding to experiences of inequality  
**Chair:** Marc Purcell, ACFID  
**Speakers:**  
1. Yen Vo, Disability Research and Development Centre Viet Nam  
2. Zakia Baig, Australian Hazara Women’s Friendship Network  
3. Fenton Lutunatabua, 350.org Pacific  
4. Ei Shwe Yi Win, CARE International Myanmar |
<p>| 15.00 | Afternoon Tea |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 15.30 | Session 1 | **Gender inequality**                                                 | Melissa Stutsel, DFAT | 1. Brazil's Program Bolsa Familia: how engaging men in conditional cash transfer programs can encourage women's economic empowerment and participation – Mary Robbins, Promundo  
2. Gender Inequality, patriarchy, gender based violence, and attitudinal change: glimmers of hope from the Solomon Islands – Joyce Wu AND Patrick Kilby, ANU  
3. Defining gender equality – Margaret Alston, Deb Western and Naomi Godden, Monash University  
4. Social Media, Sexual Harassment and the politics of Class and Gender – Tahmina Rashid, University of Canberra | H1.26 |
|       | Session 2 | **The private sector and economic inequality**                        | Beth Sargent, ACFID | 1. Business Practices, Market Processes, and Economic Inequality - Srinivas Sridharan, Monash University and Hari Bapuji, University of Manitoba  
2. Increasing or reducing inequalities? The role of private water enterprises in rural Vietnam – Juliet Willetts, UTS  
3. A tropical future – growth, equality and the State of the Tropics - Ann Penny, James Cook University  
|       | Session 3 | **Inequality and health**                                             | Tari Turner, World Vision Australia | 1. Taking action on sexual and reproductive health - reducing the inequalities experienced by women with disability in the Philippines – Alex Devine, University of Melbourne  
2. Breaking the Taboo: Why Menstrual Hygiene Matters in Reducing Gender Inequality- Chelsea Huggett, WaterAID Australia  
3. Correlates of male involvement in maternal and newborn health: a cross-sectional study of men in a peri-urban region of Myanmar – Frances Ampt, Burnet Institute  
|       | Session 4 | **Building on Shaky Foundations: When State building assistance results in inequality** | Susanne Schmeidl, UNSW | 1. Gender Equality as a Statebuilding Goal: Quick Fixes vs. Supporting Social Change - Susanne Schmeidl, UNSW  
2. Forging of the ‘peace dividend’: Exploring the impact of (unequal) distribution of aid program funding in assistance missions - Kylie Evans, University of Wollongong and UNSW  
3. In with the new, out with the old: When a focus on formal institutions leads to rural-urban inequalities – Kylie Evans and Susanne Schmeidl, UNSW  
4. Darkness at the Edge of Towns: an Exploratory Study of Growing Inequality among Urban (Displaced) Youth in Afghanistan - Srinjoy Bose, ANU and Susanne Schmeidl, UNSW | HB.39 |
|       | Session 5 | **WORKSHOP: The Politics of Results and Evidence in International Development: Playing the Game to Change the Rules?** | | | H2.41 |
| Session 6 | **Inequality in Indigenous Australia**  
**Chair:** Gemina Corpus, Fred Hollows Foundation  
1. Financial exclusion and indigenous Australia - Vinita Godinho, RMIT University  
2. Closing the gap within a generation: Tackling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage by privileging culture and self-determination – Justin McCaul and Peter Lewis, Oxfam Australia  
3. “What they gonna do to hear the outstation people”: The capability for voice and its link to inequality in remote Indigenous Australia – Annie Kennedy, Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation |
| --- | --- |
| Session 7 | **A discussion with future regional leaders: perspectives from Australia Awards Scholars**  
**Chair:** Meghan Cooper, ACFID  
1. Ms Soheang Pak, University of Sydney  
2. Mr Andrew Likaka, University of Melbourne  
3. Mr Shahidul Islam, ANU |

| 17.00 | **End of Session – Cocktail function until 18.00** |
## DAY 2 - FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2015

*Moving Forward - Addressing inequality through evidence based policy and practice*

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presentation Title and Speakers</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30</td>
<td>Arrival coffee and tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>Plenary Session</td>
<td>Welcome – Conference Moderator, Jacqui True</td>
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<td>Plenary panel: <em>The Sustainable Development Goals and inequality – where are the intersections?</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Chair:</strong> Dave Griggs, Monash Sustainability Institute&lt;br&gt;<strong>Speakers:</strong>&lt;br&gt;1. Paul Nichols, WaterAid Australia&lt;br&gt;2. Helen Szoke, Oxfam Australia&lt;br&gt;3. Miki Wali, FemLINK Pacific and Haus of Kameleone, Fiji&lt;br&gt;4. Emma Samman, Overseas Development Institute, UK</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
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<td>10.30</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<td>11.00</td>
<td>Session 1&lt;br&gt;<em>WORKSHOP: Disability and inequality – why including people with disability in research matters (3hr)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Session 1A:</strong> From grassroots to policy: addressing inequality through disability inclusive research&lt;br&gt;<strong>Facilitator:</strong> Tamara Jolly, Senior Technical Advisor, CBM Australia&lt;br&gt;<strong>Speakers:</strong>&lt;br&gt;1. Disabled People’s Organisation - Journey from research participant to researcher&lt;br&gt;2. Deborah Rhodes, Consultant – Participatory research: the Pacific experience&lt;br&gt;3. Meghan Cooper, ACFID University Network – Guidelines for Ethical Research and Evaluation in Development – the human factor&lt;br&gt;4. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Disability-inclusive Development in Australia’s aid program 2015 and beyond</td>
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<td>Session 2&lt;br&gt;<em>WORKSHOP: Strengthening the evidence on gendered poverty: A hands-on workshop on the Individual Deprivation Measure (3hr)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lead:</strong> Joanne Crawford and Joanna Hayter, IWDA and Janet Hunt, ANU</td>
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<td>Session 3&lt;br&gt;<em>Addressing inequality through M&amp;E</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Chair:</strong> Chris Adams, ACFID&lt;br&gt;1. Addressing equity issues in monitoring and evaluation – Patricia Rogers and Greet Peersman, RMIT University&lt;br&gt;2. Measuring generosity – a pathway to reducing inequality? – Brayden Howie, ADRA Australia&lt;br&gt;3. Community-Based Rehabilitation: Monitoring as Empowerment - Michael Millington, University of Sydney</td>
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<td>Session 4&lt;br&gt;<em>WORKSHOP: The SDGs: Integrating equality and sustainability into food, water and energy for all</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Lead:</strong> Monash Sustainability Institute, Institute for Sustainable Futures, UTS, and Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute, on behalf of the Australia/Pacific regional network of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)</td>
<td>K2.12</td>
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| Session 5 | **Planet Earth's Roadmap to Gender Equality: The Beijing Platform for Action +20 years**  
1. Joanne Hayter, International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)  
2. Miki Wali, FemLINK Pacific and Haus of Khamelelon (Fiji)  
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session 6 | **Power, Politics and Pragmatics – the creation and use of NGO evidence**  
**Chair:** Tari Turner, World Vision Australia  
1. The value and challenges of SROI approaches to building evidence: a Local Value Chain Development (LVCD) SROI case study - Tari Turner and Cynthia Mulenga, World Vision Australia  
2. The importance and challenges of using program data to tackle issues of justice and power and to change underlying inequalities: an example from Oxfam’s Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) program in Papua New Guinea - Jayne Pilkington and Bernadette Jeffers, Oxfam Australia  
3. Rumsfeld Redux: Knowns, Unknowns and Avoidable Blindness - David Lansley, Fred Hollows Foundation  
**Discussant:** Irene Guijt, Learning by Design |
| Session 7 | **Soap-box presentations – Sharing big ideas and proposals for collaboration!**  
**Chair:** Mark Moran, University of Queensland  
1. Inequality is the cause of all local movements – Ruth Javati, Cheshire DisABILITY Services PNG  
2. The loo people want to use: How important is the user experience in sanitation program design? - Dani Barrington, Monash University  
3. Community volunteers, a low cost ways of getting children with disability educated - Nathan Grills, Nossal Institute of Global Health  
4. One way traffic? Addressing inequality through reciprocity - Christine Crosby, Australian Volunteers International  
5. Women’s traditional art and craft cooperatives as a narrative of community (in)security - Jennifer Canfield, ANU  
6. Leveraging social media for community engagement: An evidence-based innovation towards information equality - Danny Ardianto, Monash University  
7. Gender and Peacebuilding. A Communication for Development approach to promote inclusion and understand differences – Valentina Bau, UNSW  
9. Innovation in Information Practice via interactive Mobile Technology in Bangladesh –Misita Anwar, Monash University  
10. Bridging the gap: using attitudinal research to reveal changing attitudes to women in politics, challenge dominant narratives and inform strategies for change in Fiji - Joanna Crawford, International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA)  
11. Fighting for equality without fighting men - Pia Reierson, ADRA Australia & Brad Watson, Avondale College  
12. A ‘Mysterious Illness’: Inequality through the lens of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) - Karina Lee, The University of Melbourne  
13. Can Auckland refugee and Pacific youth leaders influence decisions through mobile technologies? - Cath Conn, Auckland University of Technology |
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>13.30</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td><strong>WORKSHOP: Disability and inequality – why including people with disability in research matters cont’d...</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lead:</strong> Australian Disability and Development Consortium</td>
<td>1. Naomi Niroshinie, Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant – Developing a disability inclusive base line in WASH in Sri Lanka</td>
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<td><strong>Session 1B: From theory to practice: applying lessons in inclusive and participatory research</strong></td>
<td><strong>Facilitator:</strong> Di Kilsby, Gender and Social Inclusion Consultant</td>
<td>2. Dr Erin Wilson, Deakin University - ‘Inclusive practice for research with children with disability: A Guide’</td>
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<td>4. An Nguyen (Australia Awardee) La Trobe University – Sexual behaviours of people with disabilities in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam</td>
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<td>Session 2</td>
<td><strong>WORKSHOP: Strengthening the evidence on gendered poverty: A hands-on workshop on the Individual Deprivation Measure cont’d...</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lead:</strong> Joanne Crawford and Joanna Hayter, IWDA and Janet Hunt ANU</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
<td><strong>The political economy of inequality and aid</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Matthew Maury, TEAR Australia</td>
<td>1. Australian Awards Program – Reconciling development and national objectives in an age of uncertainty – Karen Medica, Monash University</td>
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<td>2. Poor People’s Politics: Implications for Politically-Informed Programming – Jane Hutchison, Murdoch University</td>
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<td>Session 4</td>
<td><strong>Breaking down inequality: Achieving “Fairness” Through Research Policy and Practice</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Anna Donaldson, Oxfam-Monash Partnership</td>
<td>1. Gender Inequality and the Corporate Sector - Jacqui True, Monash University</td>
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<td>2. Health, inequality and accountability in South Africa – Chrisanta Muli, Oxfam Australia</td>
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<td><strong>Discussant:</strong> Ricardo Fuentes – Nieva, Oxfam GB</td>
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<td>Session 5</td>
<td><strong>Inclusive research and evaluation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Jane Haycock, DFAT</td>
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| Session 6 | **WORKSHOP: Discussions for leadership and adaptive responses in complex contexts**  
Lead: Deborah Rhodes, Leadership Strategies; Rhonda Chapman, Consultant; Mark Moran, University of Queensland and Meghan Cooper, ACFID |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Session 7 | **Inequality in climate change and sustainability**  
Chair: Jackie Robertson, ChildFund Australia  
1. Assessing the equity of access to rural water systems in Timor-Leste. – Kate Neely, Deakin University  
2. REDD+, PES, National Policy and the response of the local community in West Kalimantan, Indonesia - Semiarto Purwanto, University of Indonesia  
3. “Please come and help us”: Poverty and climate change in rural Nigeria - nnaEmeka Meribe, La Trobe University  
4. Exploring the intersections and compounding impacts of inequality an climate variability in Bangladesh – Alex Hayes, Monash University |

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<tr>
<td>15.00</td>
<td><strong>Afternoon Tea</strong></td>
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<td>15.30</td>
<td><strong>Plenary session</strong></td>
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|        | **Plenary panel: Creating a healthy environment for Australian aid in times of inequality and austerity**  
Chair: Rebecca Spratt, University of Auckland and Katherine Gilbert, Monash University  
Speakers:  
1. Joanna Spratt, ANU  
2. Thulsi Narayansamy, AidWatch  
3. Chris Roche, La Trobe University  
4. Brendan Rigby, University of Melbourne |
| 17.00  | **Close of conference**                                               |
Keynote and Plenary Abstracts

Day 1 Keynote address: Global inequality: Are the world’s poorest being left behind?

Prof. Martin Ravallion, Georgetown University

Traditional assessments of progress against poverty put no explicit weight on increasing the standard of living of the poorest—raising the consumption floor. Yet this is often emphasized by policy makers and moral philosophers, and the discussions on post-2015 development goals have emphasized "leaving no one behind." To address this gap in knowledge, the presentation defines and measures the expected value of the consumption floor as a weighted mean for the poorest stratum, in the spirit of John Rawls, A Theory of Justice. Using data for the developing world over 1981-2011, the estimated value of the floor is about half the $1.25 a day poverty line. Economic growth and social policies have delivered only modest progress in raising the floor, despite much progress in reducing the number living near the floor. This is an instance of a more general pattern of rising absolute inequality.

Day 1 Plenary panel: Not just a discourse – Responding to experiences of inequality

Yen Vo, Disability Research and Development Centre Viet Nam
Zakia Baig, Australian Hazara Women’s Friendship Network
Fenton Lutunatabua, 350.org Pacific
Ei Shwe Yi Win, CARE International Myanmar

The purpose of this session is to discuss not only what research tells us about inequality, but to explore how different forms of inequality are being experienced and tackled at the grassroots. Issues surrounding gender, disability and ethnic minorities, as well as disproportional effects of climate change are just a few of the intersecting forms of discrimination that are a part of the wider net of the experience of inequality – materially and socially. Research can only tell part of the picture of inequality, so what does the evidence miss and how can these gaps in our assessment be overcome? Drawing from the work of a range of regional activists and researchers, this panel will provoke delegates to think not only about research on inequality, but to remember the lived experience of inequality and envision inclusive research as a process in itself, as a part of the solution to inequality.

Day 2 Plenary panel: The Sustainable Development Goals and inequality – where are the intersections?

Paul Nichols, WaterAid Australia
Helen Szoke, Oxfam Australia
Miki Wali, FemLINK Pacific and Haus of Khameleon Fiji
Emma Samman, Overseas Development Institute, UK

Negotiations by UN Member States are taking place regularly throughout 2015 culminating with the Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September, where world leaders will adopt the next development agenda guiding efforts to 2030. Throughout global talks, for 5 years, have been continued calls for stand-alone goals on tackling economic inequality, gender inequality, to think about the unequal impacts of climate change and address key issues of social equity, ensuring a human
rights imperative sits behind any new framework. Arguably, a more equal world by 2030 would dramatically reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty, and better brace us to mitigate and adapt to environmental shocks. Yet, inequality barely featured in the draft Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) articulated in the Secretary General Report: *The Road to Dignity in 2030*. So why or how is the issue being sidelined in global talks? The purpose of this panel is to assess where global talks have gotten to in the lead up to the September Summit and debate how and why inequality might be addressed in the SDGs. Is the purpose of the goals themselves, incompatible with addressing inequality? Is it just economic inequality that the Goals should be concerned with or are there other forms that can and should be discussed?

**Closing plenary panel: Creating a healthy environment for Australian aid in times of inequality and austerity**

Joanna Spratt, ANU  
Thulsi Narayansamy, AidWatch  
Chris Roche, La Trobe University  
Brendan Rigby, University of Melbourne

Over the last two years, Australian aid has undergone some of the most dramatic changes we have seen since Australia's ODA programme began. Unprecedented budget cuts and the integration of AusAID into DFAT are the most tangible of these changes. Yet the concurrent shifts in the policy and framing that shape the delivery of Australian aid are perhaps even more impactful. Many in the sector are grappling to understand how these changes have come about, and what the implications are for the way Australia's aid impacts on inequality and poverty and for the state of the Australian aid sector itself. And importantly, how can and should we respond? Drawing from conference discussion over the past 2 days, this closing panel will include conference delegates who will address these questions, aiming to move beyond just critique or lament to consider more broadly the environment for aid in Australia today, and to focus on what constructive role conference delegates (as practitioners and academics) play, individually and collectively, in shaping the environment.

In doing so, the panel will consider the role of evidence and what type of evidence matters in policy and practice. What are the underlying dynamics of the political economy of our sector, what constraints do these pose for the development sector, and how might we address these constraints to create opportunity for change in the long term? What can we learn from other places and from other sectors in Australia?
Abstracts – Day 1

A Crisis of Learning or A Crisis of Evidence? The Pacific Literacy and School Leadership Programme

Associate Professor Eve Coxon and Ms Rebecca Spratt, Research Unit in Pacific and International Education, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Over the past two decades the EFA targets and MDGs have promoted access to basic education as a key pathway to reducing social inequality in developing countries. However, there has been strong critique that this focus on education access has been to the neglect of attention to learning processes and the quality of schooling experiences. The linkage between low quality of schooling and rising levels of inequitable achievement is clearly indicated by the evidence (Alexander, 2008; Barrett, 2011; Lewin, 2011). This has lead to claims of a ‘global learning crisis’, focusing particularly on apparent evidence of poor literacy levels in a number of countries, including across the Pacific.

The Pacific Literacy and School Leadership Programme (PLSLP), funded by NZ MFAT, is one initiative designed to respond to this concern. PLSLP aims to support the governments of the Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Tonga in their efforts to improve literacy outcomes for children in primary schools.

This presentation will examine PLSLP’s unique ‘design based research’ (DBR) approach, involving a partnership between researchers and schools to collectively gather and make sense of classroom based evidence to inform school-led improvements in literacy learning. Introducing this DBR approach to the Pacific, as we will argue, has the potential to offer sustainable, contextualised and truly evidence based solutions to literacy challenges facing educational systems, and to counter the ‘one size fits all’ and ‘top-down’ approaches that have often been relied on across the Pacific and elsewhere.

“Count me in?” What and who counts as data in a literacy intervention program in northern Ghana

Brendan Rigby, University of Melbourne

An estimated 61 million children are estimated to be not attending formal schooling; 250 million children are estimated and labelled as being ‘unable to read or write’. This assumption of deficiency, although persistent, has been challenged through sociocultural approaches that have created frameworks for understanding literacy: frameworks that expose the social, economical and cultural situation of literacies. As frameworks and understandings of literacy have been applied, adapted, reframed and reapplied, a sharp demarcation has been drawn between so-called schooled and non-schooled literacies; between in-school and out-of-school literacies. Moreover, this demarcation has been drawn from research in largely ‘Western’ contexts.

Complementary Basic Education (CBE) is a space that disrupts this demarcation, a schooling context whose study offers an opportunity to advance theoretical understandings of children’s literacy and what counts as evidence. Children who attend CBE seemingly occupy two spaces at the same time; they are both in-school and out-of-school, moving through time and across multiple spaces simultaneously.

This paper examines how girls and boys from two ethnic minority groups in northern Ghana reconcile and understand literacy in and out of a CBE program. 10 children were given digital cameras for two weeks, and invited to explore the materials and events of literacy in their community. They were then asked to discuss their photographs with the researcher. Young children’s out-of-school literacies, and
visual research methods, are a severely under-researched and under-theorised field, particularly in developing country contexts. The extent to which qualitative and visual approaches to research count as data and evidence in global development is problematic. The nature of evidence is explored and discussed in this paper with implications for program design, monitoring & evaluation and data.

**How community empowerment and accountability interventions can address inequalities in primary education**

*Mr Bill Walker, World Vision Australia; Dr Gill Westhorp, Community Matters; Prof Patricia Rogers, RMIT University*

Almost half all primary school age children finish schooling without being able to read or write (UNESCO 2014). Various interventions have been designed to reduce such inequalities and improve learning. Our 2014 realist synthesis for DFID of the circumstances under which community empowerment and accountability interventions enhance education outcomes revealed diverse contextual factors affecting causal pathways to educational outcomes. Many of these relate to inequalities. We also identified causal mechanisms which can yield immediate, short-term, intermediate and learning outcomes. Together, these contextual factors and mechanisms suggest ways that intervention pathways could be designed to address vicious cycles which entrench educational and other inequalities. We present evidence from several case studies of community scorecard practice showing how multiple types of inequality were addressed. However we found major gaps in the level of information in evaluation reports on the impact of programs on the very poor. Since a lack of disaggregated data is critically problematic, we propose policy and programmatic implications and make recommendations to address such inequalities.

**Inequality in Female Education within the SAARC region**

*Dr Venesser Fernandes, Farzana Khan, Lavanya Raj and Shashinie Wijayadharmadasa*

Great and persistent inequality in the midst of plenty is a paradox of our times’ (UNDP Report, 2013, p.xi). Inequality has existed in our society since the dawn of civilization, hence, making it an old phenomenon. Although an increase in innovation in this present digital age is evident and the growth of ‘emerging market countries’ has been exceptional, existence of inequality in the society if ignored, would be fatal as it can undermine the very foundations of development, and social and domestic peace (UNDP Report, 2013). This paper will present an overview of four (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) out of eight countries in the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) region. The focus of this study is to unpack an understanding of inequality of female education in SAARC countries from primary through to secondary educational levels and therefore addresses one of the key themes of this conference.

‘Gender inequality can be defined as allowing people different opportunities due to perceived differences based solely on issues of gender (Parziale, 2008). The construction of gender inequality has rested on ‘naturalizing’ a range of differences of women and men in order to legitimize their differential treatment and inequality of resource distribution (Background paper, UNESCO, 2003). Since gender inequality is a major obstacle to human development, the UN regards it as a basic human right and a fundamental principle of the global Education for All campaign (EFA Campaign, 2000). The “World Atlas for Gender Equality in Education” document (UNESCO, 2012: p.1) claims, “Girls and women remain deprived of full and equal opportunities for education. There has been progress towards parity at the primary level, but this tapers off at the secondary level in developing
regions. The global economic crisis is deepening inequalities, made worse by cuts in education budgets and stagnating development support."

Through a cross-comparative analysis of UNDP and World Bank data-sets, findings will be presented on factors that ‘sustain’ inequality within the SAARC region. Progress being made in line with the Millennium Development Goals set for each of these countries will also be highlighted. In particular, through case-studies and case-stories in Pakistan and Bangladesh, contributing factors that influence.

**Class and Inequality in the Pacific**

*Panel Abstract:*

This panel revisits the importance of social class for understanding development in the Pacific. We see the Pacific as a place of dynamic social and economic change where growing inequality challenges assumptions that village subsistence livelihoods can continue to provide a social safety net.

The papers consider:

1. The profile of poverty in the Pacific, with reference to service delivery and labour mobility;
2. Whether the middle classes hold promise as leaders of developmental and political change; and
3. How gender and class intersect with aspirations for a better life that increasingly reference global images of lifestyle and personal fulfilment.

**Individual presentations:**

**Equity in the Pacific**

*Stephen Close and Jesse Doyle, World Bank*

A review of World Bank evidence on the extent to which the poor access development benefits in Pacific Island countries

Poverty in Pacific Island Countries is commonly understood as poverty of opportunity rather than of absolute needs. How do the poor access development benefits in the Pacific? Are policies and expenditures to date inequitable? Are there indications from the data that may help us understand how traditional safety nets work, and whether they are breaking down in the face of trends including generational divide, emigration and urbanization? The paper will present the updated available analysis of the nature of poverty in Pacific Island Countries, considering what is known from expenditure by households and Pacific governments on how the poor access development resources. Updated household income and expenditure surveying as presented in the Bank’s country diagnostics helps understand who are the poor according to consumption patterns. Poverty mapping supported by the World Bank brings a range of indicators together by geographic location to identify pockets of poverty.

The paper will present two specific case studies:

- Preliminary results of the Impact Evaluation of the Seasonal Worker Program, and its findings on how the poor, the young and women benefit from regional seasonal labour mobility in Pacific Island Countries; and
- The equity issues in education sector expenditure decisions by Pacific Island Governments, particularly focused on government funding of tertiary scholarships and its relationship to the progress towards goals for universal quality basic education accessible to the poor.
The political and developmental role of the middle classes in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste

Julien Barbara and John Cox, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program (SSGM), ANU and Michael Leach, Swinburne University

The international community has become increasingly interested in the emerging middle classes in developing countries. Development in East Asia has stimulated interest in how the middle classes might be harnessed and supported to catalyse economic development and political change. A number of optimistic claims have been made about the role of the middle classes: they are said to be economically significant with middle-class wealth driving national consumption patterns. Middle-class thrift is thought to result in increased national savings, providing capital for investment. Middle-class aspirations are said to nurture entrepreneurialism and innovation. In the political sphere, middle-class values may support democratisation and public accountability.

In this paper, we provide some preliminary analysis of the political and developmental roles of the middle classes in the study countries. The distinctive social and political histories of each country provides a comparative base from which to observe how middle classes develop particular orientations based on their religious and developmental ideologies, economic interests or their relationships with other important actors. These questions have yet to be tested in the Pacific. This is partly because Melanesian societies are routinely understood in terms of the contrast between (modern) urban ‘elites’ and the (traditional) subsistence ‘grassroots’. This commonplace narrative has obscured the workings of politics and failed to capture the complex ways in which class influences economic, social and political change in the Pacific region.

Intersections of Class, Age and Gender in Melanesia

Ceridwen Spark, State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program (SSGM), ANU

Melanesian women are frequently imagined as victims of male domination and violence. This paper considers the new generation of relatively privileged young women that is emerging in the urban centres of Melanesia. Their access to education and international media, including social media, has allowed them to develop a more cosmopolitan outlook than was possible for previous generations of women. This includes aspirations that correspond to global middle-class lifestyles and ideals of personal freedom that depart from more traditional expectations of marriage and family.

Using case studies of young women who are pursuing professional careers, business activities or political activism, this paper considers how the strategies for personal advancement deployed by this cohort may contribute to the broader reshaping of gender relations in Melanesia. Of particular interest are the ways in which these young women reposition themselves in the public realm, often eschewing established political avenues and institutions. Their stories may be read as individualistic narratives of self-advancement but these women are steeped in the language of national development. They maintain various commitments to a fairer society, often in innovative ways that do not reproduce the male-dominated political patronage networks that have determined the direction of development. In doing so, these women challenge postcolonial narratives that have defined social inequality as a consequence of the moral lapse that occurs when Melanesians leave the supposed egalitarian innocence of life in ‘grassroots’ village communities. These empowered and educated urban young women may be dismissed as middle-class (or elite) but they may also offer a preview of the future leadership of a young and rapidly changing region.
Workshop: Gender, Sexuality and Disadvantage: Intimately entwined, but perpetually divorced within international development?

- Valentina David, Family Planning Organisation of the Philippines
- Prof Gary Dowsett, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University
- Dr Gillian Fletcher, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University
- Dr Nicola Henry, La Trobe University
- Napoleon Hernandez, Family Planning Organisation of the Philippines
- Maroz Ramos, GALANG
- Stephen Wood, Institute of Development Studies

The relationship between gender and sexuality is an intimate one. Both generate deeply embedded, highly emotional and complex effects on individuals, communities and societies. Further, gender and sexuality—affecting, and affected by, other significant structural and social forces (e.g., class/caste, race/ethnicity)—are intimately entwined with social inequality and injustice worldwide (including gender-based violence). There are a plethora of programs that seek to address inequalities and injustices related to gender and an increased appetite from development actors and multilateral organisations such as the World Bank to similarly establish and address the links between sexuality and poverty. Priority is also being given to these issues in United Nations instruments. Yet, within international development work there is a tendency for gender and sexuality to be addressed independently of each other. For example, prevention of violence against women interventions rarely address interconnected issues of sexuality, e.g. cultural expectations of consent to sex in marriage. Similarly, interventions with transgender women or men who have sex with men tend to focus on issues of sexuality (e.g. the connection between sexuality and HIV or STI risk), rarely paying attention to the gendered complexities that affect these people’s everyday lives (Wood, 2014).

Re-thinking Gender Inequalities in Households

Dr. Bina Fernandez, University of Melbourne

Feminist critiques of the unitary, ‘black-box’ mainstream approaches to households observed that households are sites of ‘co-operative conflict’ that reproduce fundamental gender inequalities in access to, control over, distribution of, and benefit from resources. Drawing on such critiques, interventions promoting women’s enterprises often assume that access to external, cash income from the enterprise would give the woman greater bargaining power within the household due to the higher ‘perceived contribution’ to the family’s economic position, and possibly also provide them with a higher level of well-being. This presentation argues that it is important to pay attention to how these assumptions are mediated by multiple other factors such as the woman’s age and life-cycle position, the size, structure, religion and culture of the household, levels of poverty, the degree of indebtedness and the types of livelihood activities engaged in by the household as well as its modes of incorporation into the economy. The paper draws on empirical research conducted with three NGO initiated enterprises for poor women in rural India: a fisherwoman’s co-operative, a tribal women’s co-operative for vermin compost production and a company for the marketing of herbs. The evidence from these case studies suggests that women’s (and men’s) autonomous claims on cash income streams are often difficult given the intertwined nature of household finances. This intertwining is due to pooled household labour, non-monetized labour and income, household debt (often of women’s ornaments) and reciprocal community obligations. Implications for interventions are then considered.
Gender equality in pro-poor rural value chains and micro-finances: Case study of post-conflict Mozambique

Michaela Cosijn, CSIRO

Gender equality is high on the international development agenda, especially in 2015. In rural areas many women face severe constraints to participating in agricultural and other value chains, including access to finances to fund their economic activities, access to land and productive assets, access to technology, lower education and training, limiting culture constraints and norms, and limited labour and time to engage in activities beyond their household obligations. These are more severe in post-conflict zones where markets, infrastructure and financial institutions are underdeveloped or even non-existent, and cultural norms are often conservative. This paper will present findings from a seven year rural project in Inhambane Province, Mozambique which aimed to increase access of 7,500 poor households to farm and non-farm incomes. The aim of the project was to ensure that 65% of participants were women and of these 25% were female headed households. Value chains were specifically selected to attempt to ensure these targets were met and included cattle, goats, chickens, arts and crafts, cashew and horticulture. In addition village savings and loans were established due to the lack of other suitable financial alternatives. The paper will examine some of the practice developed, challenges, and lessons learnt over the 7 years to ensuring women became active in the value chains and were not further marginalised economically.
Addressing Economic Inequality: Women’s Empowerment in Value Chains

Grace Nicholas & Sally Henderson, ActionAid Australia

Women’s economic empowerment challenges inequality in many ways. There has been much interest in development policy in recent years about the potential of value chain analysis and engagement as a tool to address poverty and inequality, but more work is needed to ensure these tools can benefit women. Value chains are the linked processes that a product follows that increase its worth at point of sale.

ActionAid Australia, together with local partners, undertook studies in Cambodia, Palestine and Uganda, principally with rural women, to understand how they currently engage with various value chains and how they wish to in the future. The women confirmed that economic empowerment is far more than a question of money but that income can be a means for them to change power relations in households and communities. The study showed that an intentional focus on addressing power relations across value chains is fundamental to making economic processes work for women. Some activities ActionAid and partners have taken to engage women in Kenya with local and international value chains will be discussed, along with some observed impacts.

From Financial Exclusion to Inclusion: It’s not just about access to credit

Dr. Gillian McLlwain, Good Shepherd Microfinance

This paper presents an overview of the Financial Inclusion continuum developed within Good Shepherd Microfinance and describes the various sectors through which people move from exclusion towards the achievement of their aspirations and hopes for financial security. The paper focuses on our shift away from the traditional measurement of financial inclusion, which involves the ownership of, or access to a credit card, towards measurement of financial resilience and what that entails for understanding the various sectors of the continuum. The paper concludes with a discussion of the challenges in mobilising people from sections of exclusion towards inclusion, what that actually means, both to the individual and how they may aspire to many different things in their financial lives, and to those working in the field of microfinance.

Diasporas: marginal voices or innovators of the new development landscape?

Panel abstract:

Increasing attention is being paid to the role of diaspora in development and the potential of ‘new development actors’ to bring about social transformation. Diaspora organisations are actively involved in peacebuilding, human and economic development and human rights promotion in their countries of origin. While the role and potential of diaspora has drawn the attention of researchers, policy makers and development practitioners in Europe and the US, understanding of this field is still in its infancy in Australia. This panel will explore the role of diaspora communities in leveraging their unique strengths to respond to multiple forms of inequality.

Individual presentations:

The migration-development nexus and Australia’s diaspora

Louise Olliff, University of Melbourne
There has been growing interest in research and policy circles on the nexus between migration and development. This interest can be understood as emerging at a particular historical juncture: of increasing flows of remittances, of the shift in concentration of migrants to industrialised states, of unprecedented global inequalities, and of the pervasiveness of poverty despite more than half a century of development intervention. Against this backdrop, increasing attention is being paid to the role of diaspora in development and to the potential of ‘new development actors’ to bring about social transformation. Indeed, there is growing recognition that development financing and interventions are increasingly being shaped by a wider and more complex platform of actors. While many of these actors are not actually ‘new’, their practices have newly come under the spotlight, as is the case with diaspora. Today diaspora is established in the development lexicon and there is a rapidly expanding literature on the potential engagement of diaspora in development processes and as an agent of development policy. Yet much of this research and the practice of supporting diaspora-driven initiatives has been developed in Europe and North America, with exploration of the practices and potential of diaspora organisations in Australia still in its infancy. This paper will trace the shifts in thinking that have led to renewed enthusiasm about the migration-development nexus, how this has been understood in the Australian context, and to the potential of diaspora as ‘new’ development actors.

**Afghanistan in transition: challenges and opportunities for women and girls**

*Dr Nouria Salehi OAM, Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO)*

Recently returned from a month in Afghanistan in April 2015, Dr Salehi will share her reflections on the current context of Afghanistan in its transition to peace and security, especially as experienced by women and girls and their families living in Kabul city and in villages in the Kabul province. As Executive Director of this small diaspora-led NGO - one of the few Australian NGOs exclusively dedicated to working in Afghanistan - Dr Salehi will illustrate AADO’s understanding of the challenges and opportunities for women and girls in the area of education, training and livelihoods, and how education and training interventions are increasing the status and role of women with flow on effects in the family and community. In Afghanistan, AADO provides education and training for those with minimal opportunities, in particular women, to foster sustainable livelihoods and develop professional skills. AADO has a proven track record of high outcome, low cost programs which are delivered by local project staff with deep community networks and trusted relationships.

**Diaspora-led development: what do “insider” perspectives on inequality plus transnational networks contribute to development practice?**

*Denise Cauchi, Diaspora Action Australia*

Diaspora communities in Australia are often active development actors, leveraging opportunities in Australia to help family and communities “back home”. Their people-to-people links and insider knowledge give them access to vulnerable populations that frequently lie outside the reach of international actors. An additional feature of diaspora-led development organisations is their membership of transnational networks: their activities draw from, and have impact on, people in their country of origin, in Australia and on the rest of the diaspora around the world. This gives them both a unique understanding of the dynamics of global inequality as well as an exciting capacity for innovation.

While their differences to the traditional aid and development agencies make diasporas complementary actors with whom it is beneficial to engage, the marginalisation of diaspora voices
within development debates in Australia, together with insufficient levels of support for their programs, results in missed opportunities for Australia’s broader development efforts. This paper will draw on Diaspora Action Australia’s recent report “Understanding diaspora-led development and peacebuilding” to explore how engagement with diaspora organisations can enhance our understanding of inequality and can provide a vehicle for exploring innovation within the development space.

**Increasing governance effectiveness through inclusion**

*Dr Linda Kelly, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University and Susan Ferguson, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian High Commission, PNG*

Current approaches in international development have included a greater focus on the processes of ‘governance’ in development. That is, the ways in which institutions and actors operate formally and informally to enable or limit progressive social change. While these elements are positive and progressive contributions to the change agenda, we would argue that they have largely ignored the experience of women. We suggest that this is in part because those approaches have failed to identify and address the power imbalance inherent in gender relationships. Thinking and working politically has increased the insight into and analysis of systems and actors but ignored the inequality and exclusion inherent in many existing relationships. Further, feminist development workers have always understood the need for thinking and working politically because the fundamental challenge has always been to try and change power relationships between men and women.

Using examples from the Pacific and PNG, we will ground this debate in practice and point to why it matters. If donors and others embrace ‘governance’ approaches as more effective ways to support change, then gender relationships have to be part of the social and political analysis that underpins the approach. In turn this needs to be reflected in national led agendas for change. Otherwise the needs and voice of women will continue to be absent from the mainstream international and national reform efforts.

**Strengthening Equity in Global Governance: the example of the UN Security Council**

*Prof. John Langmore, University of Melbourne*

The current structure of the UN Security Council is disproportionately representative of Europe and North America. Despite some significant evolution of membership and of working methods inequity remains entrenched. Many formulae for increasing the number and equitable representation of lower and middle income countries have been proposed but none have apparently won the support of the required two-thirds of UN member states and all would be vetoed by one of more of the P5. An alternative and possibly electorably feasible approach would be to enlarge the number of elected members, ensure that they are selected in a more regionally equitable way, and remove the prohibition on consecutive terms. This would substantially increase the potential power of the elected members in comparison with the P5. If the process of election was also reformed by holding the elections over a year before their terms started, so as to allow substantial time for preparation; and elected members attempted more seriously to cooperate with each other, the relative influence of elected members could be substantially strengthened.
“One man, one vote”, but not necessarily equal - Understanding democratisation, development and security in Timor-Leste

Emily Toome, Globalism Research Centre, RMIT University

The national elections held in Timor-Leste in 2012 were deemed free and fair by international observers, viewed as evidence that the young country was progressing on the path to peace and democracy. However while the focus of many observers was on the procedural elements of the elections, it is important to understand the subjective sense of connection that East Timorese feel to national (and other) forms of community. During 2015 Timor-Leste will undergo changes in political leadership ushered in by the retirement of Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, a figure who has dominated the nation’s political landscape for decades. Accordingly, this is a timely opportunity to consider factors that contribute political popularity in the post-conflict country, where challenges to development and security continue to be faced by much of the population. Using findings from survey and interview research conducted in Dili during the 2012 election period, we report that while there is high voter participation and attachment to the rhetoric of “One man, one vote”, various inequalities exist in how East Timorese access political information and make decisions during elections. Development challenges and the ongoing importance of tradition and custom help us to interpret how modern democratic governance is being constituted in Timor-Leste. While the conduct of elections may be held up by some as evidence of the relative success or failure of democracy and state-building activities in Timor-Leste, they are but one reflection of broader processes of decision making occurring in a highly complex socio-political context.

Quantification as Obfuscation: Critically Analysing the Resistance Toward Postcolonial States’ Approaches to Gender Equity in Peacekeeping

Lesley J. Pruitt, Globalism Research Centre, RMIT University

This paper explores how dominant approaches to evidence-based policy and practice may obscure the policymakers’ and practitioners’ ability to know about and redress inequality. In particular, through looking at the first all-female formed police unit (FFPU), deployed in 2007 by India to the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia, this paper considers how states might provide alternative to achieving gender equity in tandem with peace and security. At the same time, through drawing on research and interviews in New York (USA), New Delhi (India), and Monrovia (Liberia), this paper suggests that such efforts may be curtailed or marginalized where they challenge the global culture, or normative environment of peacekeeping and gender equity at the UN, particularly when they are coming from countries that are seen as ‘low-ranking’ in terms of gender equity as opposed to supposed ‘leaders’ on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) issues. In looking at understandings of the FFPU, it appears that approaches to gender equity in the peace and security context have been limited by an over reliance on notions that presume existing equality, treat equality as sameness, and see gender equity as a quantifiable good than can only be ‘legitimate’ or ‘appropriate’ when conducted in ways that align with particular, Western approaches while denying the way differences that intersect with gender influence gendered participation. Uncovering such assumptions and some of the flawed logic on which they rest is important in better understanding and addressing intersecting inequalities that undermine women’s access to peace and security.
Workshop: Just Development: addressing injustice & inequality, a practice perspective

Phil Lindsay, TEAR Australia; Jamieson Davies, Caritas Australia; and Mark McPeak, ChildFund Australia

We live in a world of growing inequalities in terms of opportunity, incomes and power. People living in poverty face a world that seems ever-more fundamentally unjust, rigged in favour of elites, men, and ethnic majority populations. Conditions seem ripe for increasing conflicts within and between communities, regions, ethnicities, even nations, in the coming decades. In our region there is evidence that violence, a visible symptom of tension and dysfunction stemming from deeper injustices, inequalities and exclusion from social processes and structures, is on the increase.

Many ANGOs are working to overcome some of the causes and manifestations of these injustices and the resulting conflict. We work for peace, and peace is much more than the absence of conflict. Peace is about a wholeness and dignity of life, and things being in balance; people and communities overcoming the injustices of inequality to experience well-being at a deep level.

In this 90 minute workshop, we will explore how ANGOs are helping to respond to the tensions and conflict arising from inequalities: How do ANGOs develop the abilities of local organisations and communities to build just relationships, reduce violence and strengthen well-being in the face of growing inequalities? Participants will explore cases that demonstrate how holistic approaches to building peace can not only reduce violence and increase resilience, but also improve well being and contribute to structural changes underlying inequalities & power imbalances.

Based on the principles arising from the case studies, and participants’ own experience, we will discuss what implications there are for policy & practice in the Australian development sector. How
are elements of inequality and injustice dealt with in good development, not just by making things “better”, but by bringing about a new way of working and living within communities? We envisage that participants will be experienced field practitioners and/or social researchers able to reflect on their experience to contribute to discussions.

**Brazil’s Program Bolsa Familia: how engaging men in conditional cash transfer programs can encourage women’s economic empowerment and participation**

*Mary Robbins, Promundo*

Conditional cash transfer programs are shifting the paradigm for women’s social and economic roles in and outside households throughout the Global South. More recently, from Brazil to Yemen we have seen governments shift social policies to include women’s economic and social participation. Established in 2003, Brazil’s Bolsa Familia Program (PBF) is the first nationwide and largest CCT program in the world. In March 2013, 49.6 million were registered in the program accounting for 26% of the population with 93% of the beneficiaries being female headed households, a majority being nontraditional family structures and 68% of beneficiaries are of Afro-Brazilian descent (IPC-IG). However, after 10 years, the Brazilian government has failed to address the role gender plays in the progress and growth of the program and how PBF and other programs like it can work to decrease social and economic inequalities for its most vulnerable citizens.

Engaging women, their partners and families in participation in PBF and other relevant social programs can help integrate women into the formal job market.

In April 2013, Instituto Promundo began a three year project titled “Engaging Men as Partners in Women's Economic Empowerment” - funded by UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality - by targeting PBF’s beneficiaries and designing community specific interventions to work with women enrolled in PBF. Through breaking traditional gender norms and including men in workshops and conversations related to women’s role in the family, Promundo intends to contribute to the international dialogue on the positive role men can play in women’s economic participation and empowerment.

Promundo has adapted instruments (IMAGES, GEM Scale) to measure differences in perceptions and attitudes over time between men and women in rural and urban case studies in the states of Rio de Janeiro and Pernambuco. Qualitative and quantitative data is collected at the beginning and end of each intervention cycle in order to properly measure changes in attitudes and perceptions of women and their partners enrolled in the program. Examples of indicators used are: hours men spend on household tasks; hours spent in caretaking activities; shifts in women/men's perception of women's economic role in the family; women/men's shifts in perception of equal decision making about food, clothes, and large investments such as a house, appliances; shifts in men’s attitudes toward caregiving; number of hours men spend on childcare, playing with children; women’s perceived utility toward their economic empowerment based on advocacy opportunities; shifts in attitudes and number of hours men spend on childcare, playing with children, going to doctor's appointments, taking them to school, cooking and cleaning; and shifts in men's attitudes and reported behaviors (by women and men) regarding men’s roles as caretaker in family and activities in household duties and decision-making.

Ultimately, this project seeks to influence Brazil’s continued growth and adaptation of PBF and the role men can play in women’s time use and labor market participation. In September 2015, Promundo will hold a conference in Brasilia with national stakeholders involved in the program’s implementation and evaluation to highlight these experiences. Bolsa Familia, and other programs like it, is actively shifting the social, political and economic paradigm for women in Brazil. This research will address how progressive social policy – and its engaging of men – can have far-reaching effects and reduce social, economic and political inequality in Brazil.
Gender Inequality, patriarchy, gender based violence, and attitudinal change: glimmers of hope from the Solomon Islands

Joyce Wu and Dr Patrick Kilby ANU

This paper looks at how gender inequality, within patriarchal contexts, plays a role in contributing to the high levels of gender based violence found in Honiara, Solomon Islands. This research was based on key informant and focus groups interviews, and two 300 household random sample surveys conducted for World Vision Australia and World Vision Solomon Islands in 2011/2012 and 2014. The research found that the very high levels of gender based violence exists within a context of rigid gender roles and norms, as well as male-dominant interpretation of culture and Christianity; and that there was also very high levels of violence more broadly in the community, where people use violence as means of resolving disputes, and so they can become desensitised by it.

The research also found that targeted interventions can lead to changes in attitudes primarily among women that violent behaviours are unacceptable and must change. The challenge, however, was the need to reach all levels of the community (including traditional and community leaders as well as men) with clear messaging based on the Solomon Island’s context.

Defining Gender Equality

Prof. Margaret Alston, Deb Western and Naomi Godden, Monash University

In 2015, Beijing plus 20 represents a significant milestone in transnational progress towards gender equality. Further, this milestone coincides with the end of the Millennium Development Goals and the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda. In this context, we find it necessary to revisit ‘gender equality’ and the way this concept has evolved in the twenty years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Drawing on a significant content analysis study of three organisations at local, national and transnational levels, we present data that indicates the slippery nature of the concept of gender equality, and its use at different organisational levels. We discuss how this concept has been co-opted from its original purpose and misused for a variety of ideological reasons to support neoliberalism and the perpetuation of patriarchy. We conclude by presenting a contemporary definition of ‘gender equality’.

Social Media, Sexual Harassment and the politics of Class and Gender

Dr. Tahmina Rashid, University of Canberra

Social media is increasingly used by youth across the globe to engage in various discussions, replacing traditional forms of activism. Youth in Pakistan is using social media to engage with socio-cultural and political issues. Despite the argument that currently this space is dominated by urban-based youth and is somewhat elitist as only urban middle class has access to such venues. One cannot refute that it has enabled youth to participate in conversations considered taboo but also entry into the “adult domain” hence giving them a voice.

The paper analyses a recent sexual harassment incident in a private university in Pakistan that generated social media engagement by the supporters of both parties via dedicated blogs and Facebook pages. The paper critically engages with the claims that modern media will remove inequalities, flatten hierarchies, encourage free exchange of ideas and result in new interpretations. Cyber space may reproduce views held in real life and instead of becoming a
contested space, may reinforcing the existing hierarchies hence neither change nor empower disenfranchised communities.

This paper analyses the issues of sexual harassment from a class and gender perspective through various social media. It argues that such media has the potential to reduce existing gender and class hierarchies and can be a development tool that can unleash the potential of youth in eradicating class and gender inequalities and challenge traditional patriarchal views.

Business Practices, Market Processes, and Economic Inequality

Srinivas Sridharan, Monash University and Hari Bapuji, University of Manitoba

The role of private sector business in societal inequality is a contested domain. Despite longstanding pursuit of equity and fairness in corporate actions, critics maintain that these actions systematically generate and maintain economic inequality (e.g. North-South) and social inequities. However, whilst impromptu mass movements such as Occupy Wall Street have generated much ‘heat,’ there is not much scholarly ‘light’ shed on the conceptualization of how and why business actions cause inequality, or how inequality in turn impacts business outcomes.

In this research, we interrogate business practices through the lens of three fundamental forces cited as “reshaping development and markets” – globalization, urbanization, and localization. Threading through emerging evidence in the literature, we theorize how economic inequality is generated and perpetuated, through globalization and urbanization of markets. For example, whilst globalization has expanded the reach of market processes and encouraged development; it has also ensured global spread of the corporate structures of advanced markets that have been shown to produce economic inequality (e.g. marketization of essential public goods diminishes their access by the poor as a human right).

We explore the symmetry and consistency or the lack thereof between constructs at market and societal levels (e.g. market exclusion vs. social inequality; consumption restriction vs. economic inequality, etc.); and through this analysis, develop recipes for “equalizing initiatives” – initiatives that enhance the marketplace literacy of poor people and regions, enable their market participation, encourage their market mobility, all of which ultimately contribute to their economic mobility and can reduce the economic inequality in society.

Increasing or reducing inequalities? The role of private water enterprises in rural Vietnam

Naomi Carrard, Juliet Willetts and Anna Gero, Institute of Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney
Tuyen Nghiem & Ly Bui Ha, Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES), Vietnam National University

Major inequalities in access to water supply exist throughout developing countries, with global monitoring demonstrating disparities across differences in geography, poverty and ethnicity. Private sector actors are playing increasing roles in service delivery, including in rural areas, raising questions as to whether profit-seeking motives of private operators may serve to further marginalise the poor.

The research described in this presentation explores who receives services from private enterprises (and who misses out), and how decisions are made about who is served. The study assesses equity outcomes of 20 private enterprises operating in rural Vietnam concerning access to services by poor, near-poor and non-poor households, as well as disadvantaged groups including households with people living with a disability, female-headed households and ethnic
minorities. Interviews with private enterprises, householders and government representatives were undertaken and served and unserved households were mapped. Findings to date suggest that while poverty is not a driving force in decisions made by private enterprises, many offer concessions to poor households through discounts on connection fees and tariffs, or facilities for late payments. Local level leadership in communes play an important role in influencing who receives services, as does geography, for instance some poor households were located in remote locations that are expensive to service. The findings point to areas requiring attention in the water sector in relation to leadership, public sector financing, regulation and business models that ensure inequalities are reduced rather than exacerbated.

A tropical future – growth, equality and the State of the Tropics

Ann Penny, James Cook University

The world’s tropical regions will play a critical role in the planet’s future. More than 40% of the world’s people currently live in the Tropics, the region’s economy is growing 20% faster than the rest of the world, it hosts more than 80% of the world’s biological diversity and it includes some of the world’s most culturally diverse regions. Rapid population and economic growth mean it is a region whose influence is set to rise dramatically in coming decades. The nature of this influence will depend on how the region addresses its many challenges and whether it realises its potential and opportunities. Income inequality in the tropics underlies the region’s most significant challenges and problems. Of the 20 nations reporting the highest rates of income inequality, 80% are located in the tropics. Drawing on data from the inaugural State of the Tropics Report, this paper outlines the region’s unique and shared challenges and discusses the role of aid and development in addressing inequality in the region. It focuses specifically on the inter-relationships between social, economic and environmental indicators and examines the relationship between inequality and issues such as corruption, crime rates, and environmental degradation.

By the middle of the century, the tropics will host more than half the world’s population (including two-thirds of its children) and control a great deal of its wealth. Addressing inequality is a key step for tropical nations, and the broader global community, to ensure that the future of the region is prosperous, equitable and sustainable.

Inequality, economic growth and the Australian aid program: What matters, and why?

Grant Follett and Bill Rowell, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

DFAT’s Governance, Growth and Fragility Branch and the Poverty and Social Transfers Section will examine the evolving debate around the impacts of inequality on economic growth and discuss the possible ramifications for the Indo-Pacific region in the context of Australia’s aid program. We do not intend to present a definitive policy position but instead encourage discussion on the latest evidence, both academic and actual, and seek participant’s views on their own experience. The primary focus of the discussion will be to examine:

- the relationship of inequality with poverty reduction and economic growth; and
- structural and social inequality.

But there are many more questions that inequality poses in the context of Australia’s aid program – attempting to address some of these will be the focus of the remaining allocated time. Potential areas of further discussion include whether there is a type of inequality that matters most and the ramification of policies that are aimed at changing inequality.
Taking action on sexual and reproductive health – reducing the inequalities experienced by women with disability in the Philippines

Devine A.¹, Zayas J.², Marco MJ.³, Sobritchea C.⁴, Garcia J.⁵, Salgado J.⁶, Bisda K.⁷, Ignacio R.², Baker S.¹, Marella M.³, Vaughan C⁷.

2. Social Development Research Center, De La Salle University, Manila.
3. Center for Women’s Studies, University of the Philippines
4. WOWLEAP
5. Likhaan Center for Women’s Health
6. PARE
7. Gender and Women’s Health Unit, Centre for Health Equity, University of Melbourne

Research suggests that women with disability are particularly disadvantaged by the intersectional discrimination associated with their gender and disability. Women with disability are more likely to experience exclusion than their male counterparts or women without disability, compromising their education, employment, and attainment of health, including sexual and reproductive health and protection from violence.

W-DARE is a three-year action research project that aims to improve access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services, including violence prevention services, for women and girls with disability in the Philippines. The project depends on strong collaboration between an Australian university, two universities in the Philippines, a local women’s health service provider, two Disabled People’s Organisations, and a UN agency. Women with disability have made an active contribution to the project throughout, informing the research design; collecting and analysing data; using this analysis to prioritise interventions to improve access to SRH for women with disability; and facilitating delivery of these interventions.

This presentation will describe the rationale, methods and planned evaluation of W-DARE interventions, examining the impact of power and politics on our collaboration, and on understandings of what constitutes inequality. We will reflect on what SRH interventions were prioritised and what was considered feasible in the Philippines context; and on how women with disability may or may not be able to influence activities ‘targeting’ them.

Breaking the Taboo: Why Menstrual Hygiene Matters in Reducing Gender Inequality

Chelsea Huggett and Alison Macintyre, WaterAID Australia, and Dr Elissa Kennedy, Centre for International Health, Burnet Institute

Menstrual hygiene and its management impact the health and education of women and girls globally, and including school absenteeism among adolescent girls, potential risk of infection, and loss of dignity. Women and girls living in low and middle income countries, particularly those living in rural and urban poor settings and those living with disability are disproportionately affected. Socio-cultural and religious taboos and myths, dietary and behavioural restrictions, and poor access to appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) prevent women and girls participating in normal daily activities, thus reinforcing gender inequality, and contributing to inequalities in educational attainment. Yet menstrual hygiene has been neglected and under-prioritised by professionals in the WASH sector, adolescent, sexual and reproductive health sectors, as well as education and emergencies. Through drawing on recent research conducted in Indonesia and programming examples in Timor-Leste, this
presentation will examine how menstrual hygiene and its impacts contribute to, and are exacerbated by, inequality; and explore how MHM can be integrated into programmes and policies across sexual and reproductive health, adolescent health, WASH and education.

Engaging men in maternal and newborn health in Myanmar: Measuring male involvement in pregnancy care, and what it means for gender equality

Frances Ampt¹, Myo Myo Mon², Kyu Kyu Than¹, May May Khin³, Paul Agius¹, Chris Morgan¹, Jessica Davis¹, Stanley Luchters¹

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³. Burnet Institute, Yangon, Myanmar

Increasing male involvement in maternal and newborn health (MNH) has been posited as a strategy for addressing gender inequality in relationships, and evidence suggests that it may improve MNH outcomes. However, male involvement is difficult to measure, and further research is necessary to understand barriers and enablers, and define target groups for interventions. Using data from a township in Myanmar, this study aimed to construct appropriate indicators of male involvement in MNH, and assess socio-demographic, knowledge and attitude correlates.

A cross-sectional survey of married men with young children measured participants’ knowledge, attitudes and involvement in MNH. An ordinal measure of male involvement was constructed from subjects’ participation across five areas of MNH. Proportional odds regression models were developed to determine correlates of involvement.

Of 203 men included in the analysis, 13% reported the highest level of involvement. Involvement in MNH was positively associated with knowledge of MNH (AOR=1.2; 95%CI:1.1-1.3; p<0.001) and wives’ education (AOR=3.4; 95%CI:1.9-6.2; p<0.001), and negatively correlated with number of children (AOR=0.78; 95%CI:0.63-0.95; p=0.016).

These findings can inform the design of programs to increase male involvement, for example by targeting less educated couples and addressing their knowledge of MNH. The composite index was a useful tool to measure involvement; however, this summary approach may mask differential correlates of the individual indicators, which represent aspects of involvement with different implications for gender inequality. Further research is needed to understand the influence of gender attitudes on male involvement in Myanmar, and to develop robust indicators that capture these gender dynamics.

Investigating intra-community well-being

Dani Barrington, Monash University/International Water Centre, Associate Professor Srinivas Sridharan and Dr Stephen Saunders, Monash University

Inequality is commonly discussed as between societies (e.g. North-South), regions (e.g. within-country), and communities (e.g. inter-community tensions). We will share emerging evidence of well-being inequalities within communities themselves, i.e. intra-community inequality.

In our ongoing research, we have partnered with peri-urban South Pacific communities to investigate the emergent economic exchange systems relating to communities’ WASH situations. The people in these communities live in poverty and aspire to experience well-being. Early evidence from participatory action research (PAR) activities indicates that when each community’s own lived-experience definition of well-being is surfaced, significant differences in quality of life become visible within the communities themselves. We will share the Ladder of Life method that we employed in our research to gain this nuanced understanding. This has allowed us to investigate the different levels of
well-being defined by the communities, including how households may move up or down the well-being ladder depending on personal and external circumstances. Participants identified how this ‘well-being inequality’ impacts and is impacted by, an individual household’s choices, constraints, and capabilities around WASH.

The data has assisted us in identifying extremely vulnerable groups within the community, as well as recognising the unseen inequity in certain WASH solutions made available to the community by development practitioners. The ‘Ladders of Life’ are now being used by communities and local enabling actors to develop action plans so as to improve their WASH situation in a way that is participatory and sustainable. The findings are likely to be directly useful for development policy and practice.

Building on Shaky Foundations: When State building assistance results in inequality

Panel abstract:

Over the past decade, development has increasingly premised on engagement with states and on the building and strengthening of states in post-conflict contexts. Engaging in statebuilding as a development project, however, too often builds on assumptions that the states we are building (and elites within them) function similar to us, and whatever capacity we build eventually leads to a trickle-down effect benefitting greater society. More often than not, however, patronage networks and power structures capture international assistance increasing inequality as a result. This harms state legitimacy and the very assistance provided. This panel explores these themes in a comparative fashion.

Individual presentations:

Gender Equality as a Statebuilding Goal: Quick Fixes vs. Supporting Social Change

Dr Susanne Schmeidl, University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Although women’s rights too often feature at the bottom of statebuilding goals trumped by establishing political governance, security, justice and the rule of law, Afghanistan might be an exception. Here the liberation of women from Taliban rule was a key rationale for many international actors to justify the international intervention and subsequently the promotion of women’s rights remained a strong focus in international donor assistance. Much of the efforts, however, were what some see as ‘quick fixes’ and window dresses, focussing more on getting female representation in political positions than on addressing deeper-seated cultural barriers to women’s advancement. Afghan elites were willing to go along with some of the superficial advancement to women in order to access international aid dollars but never addressed the very cultures and systems that reinforce gender power inequalities. When women’s rights become a project, rather than part of social change, it should not come as a surprise that the Afghan government is willing to sacrifice advances made when international attention is waning and compromises with the Taliban insurgency are asked for. This paper argues that unless externally introduced change during statebuilding can be thoroughly internalised by local elites, the chances of shaping new social, economic, and political dynamics that can break existing gender stereotypes are unlikely to succeed in the long-term. It then explores approaches on how international actors can better work with male power holders as well as women rights activists on advancing women’s rights in post-conflict settings that are more home-grown and sustainable.
Forging of the ‘peace dividend’: Exploring the impact of (unequal) distribution of aid program funding in assistance missions

*Kylie Evans, University of Wollongong and University of New South Wales (UNSW)*

International (or UN) peacekeeping missions are often criticized for their impact on the economy of the countries they ostensibly are sent to assist, and creating inequality by ignoring the interconnectedness between the political, security, economic and social domains and the need for an integrated approach. Despite this critique, little systematic research exists, neither recommendation on how assistance missions could spend funds in a way in order to ensure a positive impact on the economy or helping create a peace dividend. One problem identified is with a lack of flexibility in terms of being able to alter assistance programs after the funding of the actual mandate and subsequent implementation in the host state. Using the case of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, and the regional areas of Weather Coast and Malaita, this paper explores the distribution of aid funding in assistance missions, discussing the factors driving aid distribution and allocation, including the influence of Melanesian concepts of compensation, ethics and culture specific rationale. This argument will build on approaches that centralize the local-ownership of policy, analysing whether a form of need-based assistance, as opposed to one that focuses on state or internationally driven objectives, is possible, or useful to develop pathways towards reconciliation and a form of positive peace for areas most affected by conflict.

In with the new, out with the old: When a focus on formal institutions leads to rural-urban inequalities

*Kylie Evans, University of Wollongong and University of New South Wales (UNSW) and Dr Susanne Schmeidl, University of New South Wales (UNSW)*

With an increasing link between security and governance in international statebuilding projects, a strong focus by western states has been on a top-down institution-building when it comes to rebuilding fragile states. This focus has been critiqued by the hybrid statebuilding debate arguing that we should not aim to build other states after the neo-liberal state model which predominates in the West. Despite recognition in recent statebuilding debates that unique models are needed, there is still limited research that explores how traditional structures can be successfully integrated into a modern statebuilding project, especially in countries where states rarely reach outside the urban capitals. Responding to this gap and using examples of access to justice and sub-national governance in Afghanistan and the Solomon Island, the paper compares the two statebuilding projects as well as varying attitudes to hybrid forms of governance. Highlighting the negative consequences when trying to replace customary governance structures with modern institutions in countries where traditional actors still wield respect, we explore ways to work on how ‘old’ structures can complement ‘new’ ones in an effort to promote better governance in rural areas in order to avoid a widening rural-urban gap. Key to this paper will be challenging the assumption that ignoring informal systems will lead to a lessening of their power within communities and their eventual terminal decay and that a better model might be to look for different approaches in rural areas, where traditional structures continue to perform a majority of governance functions.

Darkness at the Edge of Towns: an Exploratory Study of Growing Inequality among Urban (Displaced) Youth in Afghanistan

*Srinjoy Bose, ANU (Australian National University) and Susanne Schmeidl, University of New South Wales (UNSW)*
International attention on Afghanistan has been declining over the past few months, driven by the international military withdrawal and other pressing events in the Middle East. What limited international attention is left has focussed on the trials of the National Unity Government (a power-sharing arrangement) that resulted following fraudulent elections. This has distracted from other pressing issues such as a looming humanitarian crisis and rising (economic and security) instability, all bringing to fore an increasing level of inequality across the country not witnessed in previous decades.

Although gender inequality has received significant attention, the growing overall inequality within Afghan society is less studied. One of the driving forces of inequality, particularly in urban areas, is increased demographic pressure through a seemingly never-ending arrival of displaced persons (IDPs) into Afghanistan’s major urban centres. This has increased competition for scarce resources and services among new arrivals, longer-term migrants/IDPs, and the host population. The inequality is most pressingly felt by youth below 24 years of age, who make up two-thirds of the current Afghan population.

By articulating a better understanding of the situation of young Afghans living in major urban centres, this paper explores three key questions:

a) How do material inequalities affect unequal opportunities for access to public goods such as education and employment, among others?

b) How does the arbitrary definition of ‘displacement’—who constitutes an internally displaced person; when does displacement cease?—by the international community and Afghan government create inequality (through skewed assistance)?

c) How can international and national actors focus assistance in urban settlements best?

The Politics of Results and Evidence in International Development: Playing the Game to Change the Rules?

Chris Roche, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University and Irene Guijt, Learning by Design

This workshop will explore themes directly to the theme related to Evidence based policy and practice. Firstly we will summarise material from the forthcoming book co-edited by the authors with Rosalind Eyben and Cathy Shutt which is the product of the Big Push Forward conference held in Brighton in 2013, which will be published in mid-2015. In particular we will share our analysis of the power and politics behind the evidence and results agenda, as well as the responses to it from a range of practitioners.

We will then explore with participants the following questions:

• What strategies they have used to create or maintain space for the kind of transformational development which addresses inequality.

• How have they used the results and evidence agenda to better advantage, while minimising problematic consequences?

• Given that the politics around results and evidence are inevitable, what strategies can lead to a practice of generating and using results and evidence that supports transformational development?

• What further action and/or research might be useful in exploring this agenda further?

Financial exclusion and indigenous Australia

Vinita Godinho, RMIT University
Indigenous people are over-represented amongst the three million adult Australians who are financially excluded (i.e. lack access to safe, affordable and appropriate finance), and those with lowest financial capability (i.e. the ability to make informed decisions about money). Existing studies consistently find a ‘gap’ in Indigenous inclusion vis-à-vis mainstream Australia, yet offer limited explanation of why this gap persists. Indigenous cultural norms are often identified as a barrier to enhancing financial inclusion and capability, yet few studies focus on how Indigenous people themselves understand and want to use money. National efforts to promote financial literacy are targeting the young through the formal education system, yet elders are the traditional custodians of Indigenous knowledge.

Using an Indigenous research paradigm which privileges the Indigenous perspective, my study examines the cultural shaping of money in Indigenous communities in remote, regional and urban Australia, based on Viviana Zelizer’s theory of the social shaping of money. I find that ‘Indigenous-money’ for the participants of my study, is culturally distinctive from middle-income, ‘Anglo-Celtic’ understandings of money, which underlie Australian financial and banking policy. This understanding influences the participants’ world-view of financial capability and well-being.

My study contributes to knowledge and theory, and has implications for policymakers, as ‘connecting’ their efforts to enhance Indigenous financial well-being with knowledge about the cultural shaping of ‘Indigenous money’ could allow them to use culture as an enabler, rather than a barrier, to greater financial inclusion.

Closing the gap within a generation: Tackling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage by privileging culture and self-determination

Peter Lewis & Justin McCaul, Oxfam Australia

Despite being a prosperous nation, Australia faces a significant issue of disparity amongst its peoples; that of the gap between its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people in health, well being, education and employment outcomes. The challenge to eliminate that disparity has been the focus of the Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee since its launch in 2007 and has subsequently become government policy, at least in name. The problem is that the lands and waters now known as Australia were invaded and settled without consent or treaty, so therefore the foundations of the nation are based on past and present injustice. As well as seeking better policies and processes that address inequality, the nation must also deal with the deeper issues of disrespect for, and lack of acknowledgement of, the unique status and consequent rights of the First Peoples. Clearly the cause of inequality is the on-going process of colonisation and the failure of governments and the broader community to seek right relationships with the First Peoples. Building on and learning from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ leadership, knowledge and cultural resilience, and working towards a just settlement which acknowledges the First Peoples rights to self-determination are necessary approaches if the nation is to reach its goal of closing the gap within a generation. The paper will seek to assist critical thinking to inform policy and practice responses to inequality and will provide examples of Aboriginal services who are showing the way.

“What they gonna do to hear the outstation people”: The capability for voice and its link to inequality in remote Indigenous Australia

Annie Kennedy, Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation

When Australian governments talk about Indigenous inequality they provide numerical comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians against key UN development goals. Policy is pitched around closing this gap, with the current emphasis on getting children into school and people
into work. Missing in policy discussions and delivery of most services to remote Indigenous Australians is consideration of the inequality of voice. Without voice, Indigenous peoples lack the capability to participate in discourse about what is important for their development, and influence the decisions that are made about what needs to be done. A study involving Western Aranda people of the Central Desert illustrates the conditions they believe need to be in place if this critical capability is to be fostered and measured. These findings are now being used to develop a new community driven initiative targeting children, providing preliminary findings about how the capability for voice impacts on local service design and delivery.

A Discussion with Future Regional Leaders: Perspectives from Australia Awards Scholars

• Ms Soheang Pak, The University of Sydney, Field of study: Doctor of Philosophy in Arts
• Mr Andrew The University of Melbourne, Field of study: Master of Public Health
• Mr Shahidul Islam, BANGLADESH, The Australian National University, Field of study: Master of Diplomacy/Master of Environmental Management and Development

Participants in the Australia Awards Leadership Program are awardees who have been identified as emerging leaders in their countries and regions. During this panel, they will discuss:

• What they have encountered about studying in Australia that has surprised them or they have found interesting?
• How they think this experience, in terms of education and their experience of living in another country, will help them address development upon their return their home?
• What kind of links with Australian institutions and colleagues might help them/their organisation tackle inequalities? How could such connections be nurtured and supported?
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5th ACFID University Network Conference
Evidence and practice in an age of inequality

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Abstracts – Day 2

Workshop: Disability and Inequality – why including people with disability in research matters

Workshop Abstract:

People with disability are the largest and most disadvantaged minority in the world. They make up 15 per cent of the global population (about one billion people). Twenty percent of people living in poverty have a disability. The exclusion of people with disability from society and development efforts leads to inequalities in development outcomes particularly for women with disability. While there is a growing body of development research that focuses on disability inclusion, the broader issue remains that development research must be inclusive of people with disability to be representative of society. Coordinated by the Australian Disability and Development Consortium this workshop is delivered across two sessions. Participants can attend the entire workshop or attend only one session as while they build on each other, each session can also stand alone.

Session 1A - From grassroots to policy: addressing inequality through disability inclusive research

Facilitator: Tamara Jolly, Senior Technical Advisor, CBM Australia

 Speakers:
- Disabled People’s Organisation – Journey from research participant to researcher
- Deborah Rhodes, Consultant – Participatory research: the Pacific experience
- Meghan Cooper, ACFID University Network – Guidelines for Ethical Research and Evaluation in Development – the human factor
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Disability-inclusive Development in Australia’s aid program 2015 and beyond

In this session participants will explore with panellists the issues, opportunities and implications of research process and outcomes for people with disability. This interactive session will draw on the experience of people within the disability and development sector to explore how any research project can be inclusive and participatory to reduce inequalities and result in people with disability being valued partners.

Session 1B - From theory to practice: applying lessons in inclusive and participatory research

Facilitator: Di Kilsby, Gender and Social Inclusion Consultant

 Speakers:
- Naomi Niroshinie, Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant – Developing a disability inclusive base line in WASH in Sri Lanka
- Dr Erin Wilson, Deakin University – ‘Inclusive practice for research with children with disability: A Guide’
- Liz Gill-Atkinson, University of Melbourne – What women with disability in the Philippines think about participatory research: lessons learnt
• An Nguyen (Australia Awardee) La Trobe University – Sexual behaviours of people with disabilities in Ho Hi Minh City, Vietnam

Drawing on a range of case studies from the Asia-Pacific region this dynamic session will explore common lessons in disability inclusion in WASH, child rights, gender and sexual and reproductive health projects. Participants will walk away with practical strategies and approaches for disability inclusion to apply to any research project.

Workshop: Strengthening the evidence on gendered poverty: A hands-on workshop on the Individual Deprivation Measure

Ms Joanne Crawford, Research and Policy Adviser, IWDA; Associate Professor Janet Hunt, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU; Ms Joanna Hayter, CEO, IWDA

Assessing human development progress requires, at minimum, determining whether a society is becoming more or less just and equitable. This requires credible, reliable measurement of poverty, and gender equity. Current approaches to poverty measurement such as the International Poverty Line (IPL) and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) measure at household level. This hides circumstances within households including intra-household disparity, and data cannot be accurately disaggregated by sex, age, disability or ethnicity – although we know these factors deeply shape circumstances and opportunities. This systematically limits evidence on the relationship between poverty, gender and more, and makes it impossible to accurately assess who is poor, in what ways and to what extent.

The Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM) is a new approach to measuring poverty and gender disparity that overcomes these limitations. The product of a multi-year international research initiative and informed by the views of thousands of poor women and men in the Pacific, Africa and Asia, the IDM considers 15 dimensions of life that go beyond immediate survival needs to incorporate areas including family relationships, violence, environment, voice, time-use, and respect and risk at work. This familiarisation workshop will introduce the IDM and its innovations. Participants will explore how the IDM can reveal new information about the nature and extent of poverty (including within households) at varying scales. Participants will get an opportunity to compare the IDM and other approaches, express information and training needs and contribute to ongoing refinement of the IDM.

Addressing equity issues in monitoring and evaluation

Dr Greet Peersman, RMIT University/BetterEvaluation and Professor Patricia Rogers, RMIT University/BetterEvaluation

This session sets out a framework for thinking about how monitoring and evaluation (M&E) can adequately address equity issues, including managing an individual evaluation and an entire monitoring and evaluation system. The session is presented by members of the Core Team of BetterEvaluation, an international collaboration to improve evaluation by generating and sharing information about choosing and using evaluation methods and processes. The session will showcase examples of how both monitoring and evaluation has effectively gathered and presented evidence to focus attention on equity issues. The session will include time for participants to discuss challenges to addressing equity issues in M&E, including the incentive to produce simple answers about average effects.
Measuring generosity – a pathway to reducing inequality?

Brayden Howie, ADRA Australia

Central to a values-based approach to development is the proposition that human development extends beyond material wealth; beyond attainment of rights; and into outward expression of moral integrity. Many current measures of ‘development impact’ seek to determine changes in the degree of individual, household, or community deprivation across a number of domains. Other measures assess changes in personal or family wellbeing, also across various domains such as health, community, learning, and empowerment. Development organizations then seek to address global inequity according to these measures.

ADRA is investigating impact measures that extend beyond personal and community wellbeing, to the outward expression of core values. ADRA’s proposition is that equity fundamentally hinges on the ability of individuals and groups within society to think, express, and act with integrity and generosity towards the ‘other’. As such, ADRA’s vision for development goes beyond addressing causes of deprivation and poor wellbeing; to fostering values such as generosity, contribution and purpose. By investing in these ‘moral assets’, households and communities may realise material and social wellbeing in a way that is ultimately independent of external agents such as ADRA—arguably a path to ‘sustainable development’.

This paper will share ADRA’s journey into social development measurement frameworks—providing insights into the relative strengths and weaknesses of various development measures in light of a values-based development concept. The presentation may be useful for other values-based development organizations seeking to assess their impact beyond measures of deprivation or personal well-being.

Community-Based Rehabilitation: Monitoring as Empowerment

Michael Millington, University of Sydney

Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is an alternative strategy for supporting participation of people with disabilities living in low income and/or remote communities that are inadequately served by traditional medical-model rehabilitation. CBR empowers community members as they control program development from need assessment to plan implementation, evaluation and change management. Empowered CBR communities orchestrate all forms of available capital with particular emphasis on under-utilised social and human resources. CBR has a reputation as an effective means of addressing inequality in health care, education, and employment for people with disabilities. However, CBR evidence is constrained by the lack of research tools and models that resonate with socially constructed practice. Because CBR programs evolve organically from community experience, their expression in practice is extremely diverse. Applying traditional monitoring and evaluation tools to CBR has been problematic for both research and empowerment ends.

This paper recounts the development and early implementation of a socially responsive approach CBR monitoring. The central tool, the Monitoring Manual and Menu (MM&M) emerged from an iterative process with CBR providers as the core drivers of development and final arbiters of MM&M program application. We will track the development of the tool, the issues encountered by CBR leaders, and conclude with the personal reflections of two CBR leaders on incorporating the MM&M in their local programs, and the impact of monitoring on the wider community.
The SDGs: Integrating equality and sustainability into food, water and energy for all

Juliet Willetts (Institute for Sustainable Futures, UTS), Peter Devereux (Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute) and Dave Griggs (Monash Sustainability Institute)

The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The SDGs attempt to address these aspirations in an integrated way, and this is particularly essential in the areas of food, water and energy: Not only is adequate access to these resources fundamental to tackling inequality and poverty, but production and use of these resources without consideration of environmental sustainability and potential trade-offs with other areas of development can lead to conflicts and degradation of the natural systems on which development depends. This workshop will debate lessons and pathways that can evolve development practice to better integrate environmental resilience and linkages when addressing inequalities in access to food, water and energy.

Planet Earth's Roadmap to Gender Equality: The Beijing Platform for Action +20 yrs

Joanna Hayter, CEO, International Women's Development Agency (IWDA); Miki Wali, FemLINK Pacific and Haus of Khameleon (Fiji); Sarah Boyd, The Gender Equality Agency and Athena Consortium

Panel abstract:

Joanna Hayter, CEO of IWDA will be joined by a panel of gender experts who have recently participated in the UN Commission for the Status of Women meeting in New York (CSW59). This historic meeting, held at UN Headquarters in March 2015, conducted its review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action -20 years on. This landmark document is an agenda for women's empowerment, aimed at accelerating the advancement of women and at removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of life.

The Beijing Platform for Action addresses 12 Critical Areas of Concern for women in: poverty; education and training; health; violence; armed conflict; economic engagement; power and decision making; institutional mechanisms for advancement; human rights; the media; the environment, and the girl child.

The future of this roadmap and our consequent accountabilities will be discussed by representatives from government, academia and women's led NGOs. Panellists will be presenting their thoughts on the outcomes captured at CSW59. They will discuss and debate from their sectoral perspectives the controversies in relation to progress and regress in regards to women's rights and gender equality from this present global analysis.

Power, Politics and Pragmatics – the creation and use of NGO evidence

Panel Abstract:

Evidence, though rarely defined, is an increasingly powerful concept in the NGO sector. However, there are challenges as well as opportunities, risks as well as benefits, to the creation and use of evidence. Generation of evidence requires decisions about what questions will be asked and whose voices will be heard. Use of evidence creates challenges about how to analyse and meaningfully
communicate evidence that is increasingly simplified and distanced from the complex contexts in which it was produced.

This panel will be jointly presented by Fred Hollows, World Vision and Oxfam. Each NGO will present an example from their practice highlighting the dilemmas, challenges and opportunities associated with creation and use of evidence. The papers will be framed by a discussant providing an overview of contemporary debates and concluding with questions for the audience.

Individual presentations:

**Rumsfeld Redux: Knowns, Unknowns and Avoidable Blindness**

*Dr. David Lansley, Fred Hollows Foundation*

Cataract surgeries would seem to be custom made for collecting rigorous evidence on effectiveness and scalability. The intervention is specific and measurable. The outcome is known within 24 hours and is binary: it has either worked or it hasn’t. And cataracts are still the main cause of avoidable blindness.

But as the most comprehensive attempt to estimate the cost of eliminating avoidable blindness discovered, even with such a clearly defined medical intervention the data landscape is more akin to the moon than the MCG. Big differences exist between countries not only in the data collected, but also the way things are done (health system designs, surgeon productivity and more). Assumptions, proxies and (hopefully) representative averages need to be resorted to sooner rather than later. Higher quality data can be collected by RAABs – Rapid Assessments of Avoidable Blindness. But these are not cheap and are sub-national in scope.

NGOs in the eye health area consequently face a challenge. Despite being in the enviable position of promoting an intervention that is quick, quantifiable and very effective, the scale of the global task is still unclear. So crafting a message around dramatically reducing cataracts as a cause of avoidable blindness needs to be done carefully. Even with preventing blindness from cataracts, the evidence base still needs building.

**The value and challenges of SROI approaches to building evidence: a Local Value Chain Development (LVCD) SROI case study**

*Tari Turner and Cynthia Mulenga, World Vision Australia*

World Vision Australia is committed to building the global evidence-base for our programs. A Local Value Chain Development (LVCD) project in Indonesia provided an opportunity to apply the Social Return on Investment (SROI) methodology, to determine the value created by the LVCD project and assess the feasibility of using SROI as an evaluative approach.

The LVCD project was implemented in 16 villages on Flores Island. The project worked with 1500 households to improve access to profitable markets for smallholder farmers. Through a Market Facilitator, farmers were taught how to better engage with markets and build relationships with service providers.

The SROI analysis revealed that at the end of the project, participating farmers:

1. earned extra income from selling their products, which was mostly spent on nutritious food for children, education and health services, improved housing and savings
2. acquired a heightened sense of empowerment and confidence
3. amassed new skills in project management and leadership
4. learned to interact more efficiently with buyers, saving them time and money.
The Flotim LVCD project delivered a positive social return on investment of 4.41, meaning that for every dollar invested in the project, approximately four-fold of social and economic value was created for key stakeholders. Our experience with this SROI and two others, has highlighted a number of strategic and practical challenges to the conduct and use of SROI evidence such as the ethicality of valuing certain changes and engagement of key stakeholders. Therefore, we have developed recommendations for when SROI should be undertaken within WV.

The importance and challenges of using program data to tackle issues of justice and power and to change underlying inequalities: an example from Oxfam’s Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) program in Papua New Guinea

Jayne Pilkington and Bernadette Jeffers, Oxfam Australia

In PNG little national data is available on the prevalence, details and type of violence against women (VAW) or services available to survivors. Oxfam’s PNG EVAW program is contributing to a more informed understanding of VAW in PNG by supporting partners to collect standardised data on VAW and the services they provide. The EVAW program partners are key collaborators in designing indicators and have participated in data analysis to identify options for program development. A remaining and critical challenge is collecting data that demonstrates whether programs have had a positive impact on the survivor and their family and supported transformative change. The growing evidence base demonstrating the prevalence of VAW has strengthened the ability of Oxfam, partners and stakeholders to effectively advocate for improved national responses to VAW in PNG, including increasing the provision of crisis support services, critical policy change and the development of national guidelines and policies. The data will also be used by Oxfam in communications material to increase public support for the EVAW program and as an input to Board reporting on program performance. Ethical challenges arise as the use of the EVAW program data moves further away from the program context for use in national advocacy and even more so for use by Oxfam in Australia and New Zealand. Issues include how to ensure processes for interpreting and using evidence do not further reinforce inequality but support marginalised people and communities to exercise control and direction over data use and the program solutions which emerge.

Inequality is the cause of all local movements (Leonardo da Vinci (1452 - 1519))

Ruth Javati, Cheshire DisABILITY Services PNG

Inequality is based on class, status and power; it is the existence of unequal opportunities and rewards for different social positions or statuses within a group or society. The main fault-lines of inequality are around class, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic location and age. I believe data collection and continuous up-date is also one of the main reasons why, inequality can be clearly seen in the disability arena. Because of little or no data/evidence at all, people in influential positions are not performing their duties, or they are just turning a blind eye on us. The idea though not new I would like to emphasis on is, serious data collection and continuous up-date in each district for equal distribution of services to people with disability. Due to lack of data/evidence the practice still continues- the practice of non- improvement to the life’s of People with Disabilities, and the unequal distribution of vital services and so we are forced to put-up.
The loos people want to use: How important is the user experience in sanitation program design?

Dani Barrington, Monash University

Safe and hygienic sanitation was recognised as a Human Right in 2010, and programs across the globe continue to work towards achieving this for the 2.5 billion people currently lacking access to an improved place to do their business. India has seen a renewed push to accomplish this through the launch of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) or ‘Clean India Campaign’ by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. One of the program’s key goals is to end open defecation by 2019.

The SBA has garnered remarkable international attention, but India has been implementing large-scale sanitation programs since 1986. These campaigns have historically focussed on a national ‘philosophy’, with state and local governments deciding on actual design and implementation of on-the-ground activities. This has led to disjointed programs where some states focus on subsidies and others capacity building, and many residents are left with toilets that simply are not used- often because implementers have not adequately considered the user experience of going to the toilet.

In developed countries we take for granted that toilets are a place where we can “go in peace” (see Sugden 2014, Waterlines 33(3)). The user experience is important to us. Yet often in sanitation interventions the focus of toilet design is solely on functionality, forgetting that even those living in extreme poverty have a right to choose a place to defecate which is most inviting to them.

Recent research has shown that even the most impoverished residents of India have ideas of what toilets they want to use, yet often these are not what the government is providing or promoting through their sanitation campaigns. We are interested in a research agenda exploring how local capabilities could be harnessed so as to contribute to achieving improved sanitation for communities in a way that they themselves aspire to.

Community volunteers, a low cost ways of getting children with disability educated

Nathan Grills, Nossal Institute of Global Health, University of Melbourne

An estimated 90% of children with disabilities in developing countries are not in school. Therefore achieving universal Primary School education by 2015 (MDG 2) will remain elusive. In general, children with disability are less likely to start school and have lower rates of staying and being promoted in school than their peers without disabilities. For People with disability Education is important to improve employment opportunities and lead to greater social inclusion. Literacy also increases inclusion of PWD as learned skills allow them to play active and productive roles. However, the sad reality is that PWD have difficulty accessing education because of financial, physical, social and attitudinal barriers and these must be tackled. One affordable solution in low-resource settings is to rely on local volunteers or CBR workers who are low-cost and locally-based. Perhaps around 90% of special education interventions for children with disabilities could be delivered at low-cost in a competent and sustainable manner through trained community level volunteers. These volunteers can 1) be trained to informing families with CWD that they have a right to access educational opportunities, 2) Providing recommendations and practical assistance to make school environments physically accessible, 3) assist and advocate for teachers to create flexible and child-centred learning environments and 4) Refer children to specialized services to enable their inclusion in school, for example, referral for assistive devices. This model could be utilised in many low income countries to achieve MDG 2 and Education For All.
One way traffic? Addressing inequality through reciprocity

*Christine Crosby, Australian Volunteers International*

Australian Volunteers International (AVI) has been sending Australian volunteers overseas for 60 years. AVI deploys more than 200 skilled long-term volunteers around the world annually. In addition to this AVI has implemented numerous short-term youth, group and student-based programs, deploying over 800 youth volunteers.

There is no doubt that Australian youth benefit hugely through these opportunities; developing learning capabilities, increasing cross-cultural awareness, strengthening career options and enhancing their understanding of global issues. The Federal government’s New Colombo Plan, which provides funding for Australian students to undertake a range of activities overseas, highlights the perceived merits in these opportunities.

However when we look at these programs in the framework of inequality and its causes, does all this one way traffic perpetuate the myth that the “western world” has all the answers and none of the issues? Taking inspiration from the UK Global Xchange program, we propose a community engagement program where young people from different countries work together, learn together and solve problems...together.

This program, based on reciprocity, allows young people from different cultural backgrounds to build mutual understanding and respect by volunteering, living and learning together on an equal footing.

We will explore how a team of university students, equal numbers from Australia and a developing country, can work together to address locally-identified community issues, in Australia and in the partner country. We will discuss how, by living and working together in each community, learning about the differences and similarities, strengths and challenges that lie within communities we can address inequality by empowering young people. In overhauling the one-way notion to global learning projects, there is a space for universities and faculties to build a community engagement program based on working together and one that promotes the concept that everyone has the right and ability to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Exploring women’s traditional art and craft cooperatives as a narrative of community (in)security

*Jennifer Canfield, ANU*

My ‘idea’ is to research the community security component of the concept of human security, by investigating whether traditional art and craft cooperatives provide a ‘bottom-up’ example of expressing and addressing cultural insecurity. This idea connects to the conference theme by drawing a link between inequality and insecurity and by proposing an alternative way of thinking about and addressing inequality. For example, craft cooperatives have been established by women in the West Bank to make and market traditional Palestinian embroidery. In addition to alleviating economic insecurity the cooperatives preserve and assert Palestinian culture, in an environment of political and cultural inequality. I propose to investigate whether traditional art and craft cooperatives in the Asia Pacific, specifically those established by local women, were similarly developed in response to cultural or community inequality and insecurity.
Leveraging social media for community engagement: An evidence-based innovation towards information equality

Danny Ardianto, Caulfield School of Information Technology

Social media has increasingly been used in civic activism around the world to raise and channel public voices as a vehicle to address information access inequalities. While there is a continued debate whether social media creates another digital divide between different groups of internet users, it has been successfully used as an alternative channel for disseminating, organising, and amplifying information with less barriers. Social media has, thus, become integral parts of modern civic movements particularly in conflict settings (e.g. Arab Spring). Extant studies, however, has largely omitted the roles of social media in informing evidence-based policy and practice to support development programs in a non-conflict setting. Based on my current PhD study, the soap-box presentation will illuminate how social media is used in an innovative process to engage wider community members in urban sustainability programs. I will present a brief case study report on social media use for urban farming in Indonesia. The use of social media by voluntary associations here is argued as an active process of evidence-making in addressing information inequalities.

Gender and Peacebuilding: A Communication for Development approach to promote inclusion and understand differences

Valentina Baú, UNSW

One of the social, political and economic problems that arise in countries affected by large-scale violence is the different situation that takes shape for men and for women, particularly after the end of the armed fighting. That of reconstruction is a complex path for which most government and local institutions are unprepared. Institutions pay little attention to gender as an element of peacebuilding, and pre-existing structures characterised by male-dominance are perpetuated. The significance of women’s contribution to peace is seldom understood and nurtured; at the same time, issues of masculinities and male vulnerabilities go unaddressed.

What needs to be fostered is the opportunity for social change that comes with the reconstruction process. Media, communication and technology have an important and active role to play in promoting gender equality, communicating women’s rights, and enabling positive change.

This research project I am developing wants to demonstrate how the application of a communication for development design to programmes that aim to rebuild peace after conflict, is effective at providing both a gender-specific and a gender-inclusive approach to peacebuilding. The aim is to identify relevant case studies from post-conflict areas, which employ the media and communication to facilitate the creation of an environment where both men and women can contribute to rebuilding peace. Relevant methodologies will then be applied to the examination of these case studies, using a communication for development lens for analysis.

With this soap-box presentation I would like to:

- reflect on how participatory communication activities can offer a platform to share different experiences of the violence and generate engagement from both men and women, allowing for transformation at the social level;
- find out about peacebuilding projects or programmes focusing on gender, and built using a media, communication, or communication for development design;
- develop collaborations in this research area.
Global Mobility for Socio-economic Change: An exploration of Issues and Possibilities for Africa and Africans in Dispersion

Charles Mphande, Victoria University

There is clear recognition now among multilateral bodies that are involved in global development and change work that people development offers a positive way forward for socio-economic change (UNDP 2010). Further, people migration and mobility globally has also been highlighted as a factor that impacts development across the dimensions of income and consumption, education and health and broader cultural and social issues and processes (UNDP 2012), particularly among low human development index (HDI) countries and regions. However, studies have also shown that migration and mobility appears to be more aligned along countries and regions of equal or similar human development indices, rather than across countries and regions of markedly different levels of human development (Klugman & Pereira, 2009). This phenomenon puts the low HDI countries and regions at a disadvantage. Given the more recent dispersion of people of African origin to various regions of the developed world, this paper explores challenges as well as possibilities of capitalising on the human capital in dispersion for positive contribution in the dispersion as a requisite for impacting positively their place(s) of origin. Adopting a critical realist approach the paper seeks to examine current position of Africans’ global migration and mobility, including challenges, and explore possibilities of drawing on human capital in dispersion to impact progress of socio-economic development in Africa, as a departure from the traditional non-human focus of externally driven interventions, characterised by aid and projects.

Innovation in Information Practice via interactive Mobile Technology in Bangladesh

Misita Anwar, Larry Stillman & Tom Denison, Monash University

The Doing IT Better Project in Bangladesh (name may change) is a recently funded 5-year multi-site NGO-university action research project (2015-2019) between Oxfam in Bangladesh and its local partners and the Faculty of IT at Monash to develop a community-information system focussing on innovative information messaging via mobile communications for isolated very poor communities in Bangladesh. Mobile phones have a high degree of penetration in Bangladesh. The project will have completed an intensive design for implementation phase by mid-2015. The project also aims to include participatory action research as a key research and implementation methodology throughout the life of the project as both means of not just engaging “voices from the bottom” but giving them a voice via the technology itself to become part of the design, implementation and evaluation. However, while thinkers like Duncan Green in From Poverty to Power have said “Ensuring access to knowledge and information is integral to enabling poor people to tackle the deep inequalities of power and voice that entrench inequality across the world” (p. 43), HOW to provide effective access is a challenge in a variety of ways: it requires a reconceptualization and different way of working with information and knowledge on the part of NGOs; technically it means developing a technical backbone and interface that is locally meaningful and robust and particularly interactive at the village level; and the outcomes of social and technical innovation need to be meaningful and useful to many different stakeholders. The project can also be seen as a new contribution to the question of the “relations of information production” within the multidimensional conceptualization of poverty as now taken up by some researchers via Sen’s Capability Approach. The project also represents a cultural challenge for academics used to working on more conventional problems working in the social and technical aspects of IT implementation to work with a major
Bridging the gap: using attitudinal research to reveal changing attitudes to women in politics, challenge dominant narratives and inform strategies for change in Fiji

Ms Joanne Crawford, International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA)

The general election in Fiji in 2014 saw a modest increase in women’s representation in parliament, to 14%, up from 11% in 2006 but still well behind the global average of 21.8%. This under-representation in national politics is mirrored in and reinforced by women’s under-representation in the media and dominant public narratives about women and politics. A range of development actors have prioritised women’s political representation in the Pacific in the last decade, and while rates in the Pacific are improving, they remain the lowest in the world. Understanding in some detail how members of the community view women in politics and their attitudes towards women in leadership more broadly is critical to shaping effective efforts to address the barriers to women standing and being elected and amplify supportive factors. A study released in Fiji in November 2014, Public Perceptions of Women in Leadership, provides these insights for Fiji. The research, undertaken by the Fiji Women’s Forum in partnership with International Women’s Development Agency, gives a snapshot of attitudes towards women in leadership in the lead up to the 2014 election. The findings challenge claims that women’s under-representation in parliament reflects a low level of community openness to women in political leadership. In fact, the majority of people in Fiji consider women are under-represented in government, and that increasing women’s representation in politics would be beneficial to the nation. The study shows the potential of attitudinal research to reveal emergent change in male dominated public cultures and inform strategies to accelerate change.
Fighting for equality without fighting men

Pia Reierson, ADRA Australia and Brad Watson, Avondale College

Reflecting on ADRA Australia’s attempts to promote gender equality and reduce gender based violence (GBV) in PNG we argue that:

1. NGOs may harm the quest for gender equality by positioning men as perpetrators/oppressors and women as victims of GBV; deepening a ‘we’ and ‘them’ divide that already exists in patriarchal culture.
2. NGOs often behave as if knowledge and awareness alone will lead to behavior change.
3. It is time to work more closely with religious groups to influence values, relationships and culture using a common theology of gender equality.
4. The work of NGOs is likely to be more beneficial when we talk about security, income and health, rather than discrimination and violence.

To this end we propose less talk about deficits, gender inequality and men as problems, and more engagement with what might be loosely termed “values-based development”. This may well involve a ready, set, go slow approach.

Getting ready - Taking time to humbly understand beneficiaries - women and men in relation to their gender aspirations. This may not be for equality in a Western sense. It may be for the ability to negotiate, make change and seek safer communities.
Getting Set - Designing programs and strategies enhancing cooperation between men and women, building on existing strengths, and promoting the dignity of participants.

Go slow – Refining a values based approach to development. In religious groups this may involve shaping the way theology is used to construct masculinity.

A ‘Mysterious Illness’: Inequality through the lens of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Karina Lee, The University of Melbourne

This paper explores the relationship between stigmatization and inequality, focusing on the current Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak. Stigma has often been defined as a mark of ‘disgrace’ upon an individual that discredits them within wider society. However, this research argues that understanding how stigmatization operates requires us to shift beyond the mere concept individuals’ physical differences towards a sociological perspective that considers EVD-related stigma as a social construct that is strongly linked to the broader system of power and domination, where stigmatization is used by certain actors seeking to legitimate their control over others. Examining EVD-stigma against the backdrop of social order draws our attention to the particular processes that devalue an individual, illustrating inequality as the product of stigmatization. This paper analyses how inequality impacts at a societal level and on an individual’s life chances, materializing through a number of domains including participation in employment, access to health services and more generally poverty alleviation and human rights. The research considers the lessons that can be drawn from HIV and AIDS-related stigma, finding a point of comparison between the two viruses. Finally, the paper concludes with exploring how we might detangle the nexus of stigma relations and its implications on social structures and policymaking.

Can Auckland refugee and Pacific youth leaders influence decisions through mobile technologies?

Cath Conn; Losi Sa’uLilo; Ayan Said; Sari Andajani; Laurent Antonczak, Auckland University of Technology

This paper presents the digital stories of youth community leaders who work in an environment of health inequalities amongst Auckland refugee and Pacific Island communities. The purpose of the research was to use creativity through digital technology and youth expertise to influence decision makers. A participatory, empowerment-based approach reflected Talanoa methodology and Participatory Action Research to elicit the help of youth for alarming public health issues situated in their lived realities. Specifically, the study used mobile phones and tablets to represent these digital stories. Youth then communicated these stories and related viewpoints through social media and a youth-created website.

This research supports previous studies showing the potential for new technologies to engage young people in civic life. Results of this study argue for the place of youth as ‘motors’ and ‘catalysts’ in promoting solutions, in an environment where inequalities are of growing concern. The use of Talanoa and mobile technologies was relevant in providing a safe space for Auckland youth to discuss their successes to date, prioritize issues, exchange ideas, and develop solutions; such as, the importance of positive symbols of youth. The research is ongoing in 2015 with the aim of mapping effects of the study on decision making and capacity building in Auckland communities.
Land Tenure Insecurity in Asia and the Pacific: From Crisis to Catastrophe

*Luke Millar, Habitat for Humanity Australia*

This paper will attempt to bring attention to the exploding land tenure crisis in Asia and the Pacific. The two central considerations of this paper are that in the context of modern urban spaces, particularly in the developing world, land and life opportunities are linked, and that if left on the periphery of ongoing discussions around human development and justice in an age of mass urbanization, insecure land tenure will prove deleterious to life opportunities on a scale larger than commonly recognized. Seeing land access as a part of the poverty puzzle and as something that is determining disadvantage, may seem like common sense. However, awareness is not universal - even within international development circles whose focus is, of course, poverty reduction. The aim of exploring these issues is two-fold. Firstly, it aims to build a critical awareness of the matters around land tenure within Australian civil society - especially among opinion makers, advocacy networks, and international NGOs. Secondly, it is hoped that through a timely refocus on the issue of land tenure insecurity, civil society in Australia can work with the government on its new infrastructure development plans in a way that simultaneously supports greater tenure security for the growing urban poor in our region.

**Building a wealth of resentment: inequalities in the international aid and development sector**

*Anna Strempel, Monash University*

When we talk about inequality in the international development context we tend to focus on disparities within and between countries: we measure the divide between rich and poor, and factors like relative income and GDP. We have paid far less attention to inequalities operating within the development sector itself. Local development workers are typically employed in lower-level positions, paid significantly less and receive fewer benefits than their expatriate colleagues. What does this mean for aid effectiveness? The current research reviews the existing literature on remunerative inequalities and finds that they cause resentment and dissatisfaction among local workers, while their expatriate colleagues remain largely unaware of the issue; and that these undercurrents damage workplace dynamics and organisational effectiveness. The research builds on previous studies by examining how remunerative disparities play out in Indonesia, through interviews with Indonesian and expatriate development workers. The findings suggest there is a significant divide between how local and expatriate workers perceive remunerative inequalities, and that power imbalances and cultural norms underscore this divide. The discourse has been dominated by expatriate voices, leaving locals feeling undervalued, unheard and disempowered. The research also draws on a case study of the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership and examines the merging of AusAID and DFAT to explore how aid projects might be delivered differently, based on lessons learnt. Ultimately, the research calls for a new way of thinking about inequality in international development that recognises and seeks to address the impacts of intra-sectoral inequality through collaborative and other approaches.
**Inequality and disability: What do we know about inequality for people with disabilities in low and middle-income countries?**

*Kathryn James, CBM Australia*

A key theme emerging from the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process is that inequality is a barrier to human development. However, there is a lack of data and evidence to measure levels of inequality for people with disabilities, despite the links between disability and poverty being well-recognised within the development sphere.

This Soapbox Session will highlight the issue of inequality as it relates to people with disability, outlining what is known about the nature and extent of inequality for this group. It will look beyond purely economic measures of inequality, such as economic participation or income levels, to consider broader issues of access to basic education, health care and employment – spheres in which people with disabilities often face disadvantage, marginalisation or exclusion. Using this understanding as a basis, it will identify some of the future challenges for development research and practice that are raised by a deeper understanding of inequality for people with disabilities.

**Winner or loser: A scoping study on the implementation of trade in health services in the Philippines**

*Maria Antonio, Griffith University*

The Philippines has been trading its health services already to foreigners, little is known about the magnitude of its implementation and the domestic regulations to manage its benefits and consequences.

A comprehensive literature review of published peer-reviewed journals and gray literature was done to answer what is known about the Philippine trade in health services. The review was accomplished in the following steps: (1) identifying the question and relevant literature; (2) selecting the literature; (3) collating into themes using NVIVO 10 software. Different themes were identified from this process. There were 124 articles from the database searched, the majority of which were peer-reviewed journals and 54 more articles were included after hand searching relevant websites with a total of 178 articles identified. Abstracts were inspected and 101 relevant full papers were included in the review.

The themes identified in the review were based on the World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade in Services (WTO GATS) definition and they were the following: (1) Cross border supply (e.g. US availing the health services of medical transcriptionists in the Philippines); (2) Consumption abroad (e.g. foreigners availing health services in the Philippines); (3) Foreign direct investment (e.g. foreigners investing in the hospitals or retirement villages in the Philippines); (4) Natural persons (e.g. Filipino nurses providing health services in hospitals abroad); (5) Philippine domestic regulations on trade in health services. These themes were the most discussed issues on trade in health services in the Philippines.

This review shows research and policy gaps in the trade in the Philippine health services specifically on WTO GATS consumption abroad, where foreigners avail the health services in the Philippines. In the absence of a comprehensive Philippine domestic regulation on trade in health services to protect the Filipino people, there was documented exploitation among the poor and vulnerable Filipinos motivated into commercial surrogacy and brokered commercial organ transplant. What was seen in this article and the policy gaps it revealed is a huge potential for contribution in the future to understand trade in health services and how it could be implemented in the Philippines.
Australian Awards Program – Reconciling development and national objectives in an age of uncertainty

Karen Medica, Monash University

The Australian government’s longstanding development scholarship program is mapped to the overall development policy targeting the promotion of prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability. Enhancing accountability and effectiveness of this program is an important imperative, especially given the recent and significant decline in funding across the Australian aid program. In December 2014, the Australian government announced cuts to the aid budget of more than $3.7 billion. At the same time, the relative impact of funding cuts to the scholarship program has been negligible with the program in the Asia Pacific region more or less quarantined and around 4,500 scholarships and fellowships on offer in 2014-5, totalling around $310 million. Comparatively, funding targeted to Australian NGO programs for the same period equates to $134 million.

This paper draws on empirical data from Awards Program to identify key factors that have shaped and influenced Australian policy and practice for aid-funded higher education. The paper explores the rationale for the relative quarantining of development scholarships in an age of uncertainty and the need to reconcile tensions between addressing inequality and preserving the Australian national interest? Evidence-based interventions are identified to address key development challenges under this program.

Poor People’s Politics: Implications for Politically-Informed Programming

Jane Hutchison, Murdoch University

This paper considers the policy and practice implications of a structural political economy analysis of poor people’s responses to donors’ aid interventions. Despite many large donor investments in poverty-reduction programs that directly target the poor, poor beneficiaries’ political responses are seriously understudied. A large critical development literature examines the ways in which donors’ neo-liberal interventions seek to incorporate poor people into global markets, assuming poor people resist such incorporation. However, poor people are not so clearly always opposed to donors’ agendas and, where opposition does occur, it is often instrumental and tactical rather than ideological and programmatic. Indeed, on occasions, poor peoples’ movements will seek alliances with donors against the agendas of more menacing opponents. Drawing on Southeast Asian case studies, this paper argues that poor people’s responses are profoundly shaped by the unequal power relations they experience, especially their lack of substantive representation and the need to confront hostile or indifferent political actors. Accordingly, pro-poor programming needs to take more account of poor people’s distinctive politics in relation to power inequalities, not confusing this with the responses and strategies of their allies and advocates.

Should aid practitioners really worry about economic inequality?

Terence Wood, ANU

Is economic inequality really an issue for development practice? Recent research has provided striking estimates of economic inequality. But it does not necessarily follow that economic inequality is an issue that ought to be of foremost concern for development workers. Answering the question of whether it should be requires addressing a range of issues spanning from the realms of philosophy to simple matters of practice. In this paper I will make the philosophical case that it is mistaken to view economic inequality as something that is fundamentally bad of its own accord, but rather that it is only
potentially bad in an instrumental sense — specifically, that economic inequality is bad only if it contributes to lower average levels of happiness. From this starting point, and what we know about the relationship between wealth and happiness, I will argue there are strong grounds to believe that economic inequality is a significant barrier to maximising happiness in developed countries, but that there is much less evidence to suggest that economic inequality is the foremost barrier to increasing happiness in developing countries. In these countries absolute overall economic improvements are more important than economic inequality. However, this does not mean development practitioners should not concern themselves with inequality. Another form of inequality is important to development work: inequality of power. And I will argue we can improve the development work we do by being more attuned to the inequalities of power that exist within the countries and communities we work in, and between different international actors.

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Roundtable Discussion on Breaking Down Inequality: Achieving “Fairness” Through Research Policy and Practice

Panel Abstract:

As the global community turns its attention to addressing inequality, how we understand and interpret inequality is coming into closer question. Indeed, as argued by Ricardo Fuentes-Nieva, Head of Research for Oxfam GB, new discussion, debate and research is required to help us more appropriately frame, measure and take action on this critical issue. The Oxfam-Monash Partnership panel will explore possible new measures of inequality as posited by Fuentes-Nieva, such as “fairness”; how such measures might be applied to help us better understand inequality's intersecting
dimensions, such as gender, accountability and livelihoods; and how they might enable us to more effectively address this complex global issue.

**Individual presentations:**

**Gender Inequality and the Corporate Sector**

Professor Jacqui True, Politics & International Relations, School of Social Sciences, Australian Research Council Future Fellow, Monash University.

**Health, inequality and accountability in South Africa**

Dr. Chrisanta Muli, Research Team Leader, Oxfam Australia, and Governance Committee member, Oxfam-Monash Partnership

**Gender, Labour and Agricultural Livelihoods in Sri Lanka**

Dr. Samanthi Gunawardana, Lecturer, Gender and Development Monash University

**Designing learning systems to support research for development**

Philip Wallis, Monash University

The emergence of research for development (R4D) among development agencies and researchers stems from a recognition that innovation and change require collaboration and learning to occur across multiple levels and contexts (Ison et al., 2014). This presentation outlines a case study of the experiences of Australian participants in a ‘learning project’ created as part of an Australian-funded food security R4D initiative in East and West Africa. The role of institutions in enabling or constraining learning-based approaches are explored and some possibilities for institutional innovation are considered. Reflections on the design and implementation of a multi-agency, collaborative systemic inquiry are presented, as well as insights from sub-inquiries into: (1) the online mediation of knowledge management and learning; (2) learning through collaborative authorship; and (3) a consideration of ethical research practices in R4D contexts.

**Whose evidence? Whose practice?**

Timothy Budge, Tribal Strategies

Often in development circles, understandings of “evidence” derive from particular notions of academic rigour and are closely linked to assumptions as to the purpose of collecting that evidence (eg convincing funders). It also seems to be true that despite decades of talk about participation, development theory – particularly such concepts as theories of change and program logic – belong more in NGO headquarters than in the communities where development is notionally taking place. However, the reality is that communities have their own traditions of knowledge and research, traditions which arise out of very different world views and which have their own forms, philosophies, ideas and histories, all refined over many generations. By and large these traditions are dismissed as alternative or irrelevant to the work of development, which still tends to be conceptualised and designed in Western settings, regardless of the depth of insight and in spite of their absolute relevance of these ideas to communities themselves. As a result, community participation is usually limited to practice (eg data collectors, volunteer implementers), rather than processes which engage community members as co-contributors to ideas of evidence, theory or forms of knowledge. This presentation offers a case study of research which sought to move notions of evidence and practice closer to the heart of community concerns and interests. The research, which took place in
informal urban settlements in South Africa and Zambia, sought to recognise community groups and individuals as creators and sustainers of development knowledge, as well as initiators and experts in their own change processes. The presentation will outline some of the ideas explored in the research as well as some of the findings and challenges which emerged. In the process, all practitioners are invited to engage reflectively with the questions of “Whose evidence? Whose practice?”

**Who asks and who do we ask to? Evidence building in qualitatively-oriented development evaluation**

*Sumera Jabeen*

While qualitatively-oriented evaluations are widely criticized for not being robust, even those who are willing to adhere to various research standards overlook numerous issues affecting the quality of evidence. In international development evaluation, evaluators generally fly-in to the program sites, meet a few respondents, mainly the local leaders, most of whom are selected by the program staff. However, this paper discusses how inequality and power within a community, respondents’ stake in a program, evaluator’s cultural competence and gender of the evaluator and respondent can affect what we learn about an intervention. It was found during a field research in Pakistan that community is not a homogenous group and various subgroups can have different understanding of and experience with a development program and therefore ‘anyone’s views’ does not necessarily represent the whole community. Similarly, the perspectives can be biased depending on the respondent’s stake in a program. Respondents may also provide different and at times contrasting opinions depending on when and where they were interviewed. Evaluator’s gender and understanding of the local culture can be another factor affecting the quality of information collected. Therefore, it is essential to consider all the above factors in a qualitatively-oriented study to ensure that the evidence collected provides a complete understanding of the effects of a program for various subgroups.

**Addressing Voice Inequity through Visual Storytelling**

*Miguel Collier and Elizabeth Cowan, CARE Australia; Tamara Plush, Centre for Communication and Social Change, University of Queensland*

While Vietnam has reached middle-income status, not all people have benefited equally from the country’s rapid development. Ethnic minority peoples in particular are disproportionately represented among the poorest populations, and often lack opportunities to influence the policies and practices that affect them. In 2013-2014, CARE International in Vietnam used Community Digital Storytelling (CDST) to create a forum for poor ethnic minority peoples to speak out about their experiences of the impacts of climate change. CDST is a values-based, participatory development process where community members create and share photo-video stories in their own language; enabling them to gain knowledge, build their confidence and share their concerns. In the Integrated Community Based Adaptation in the Mekong project, CARE used CDST as part of a suite of interventions to raise the voice of Cham ethnic minority fisherwomen and men – an ethnic minority group rarely heard from in climate change decision-making. This paper documents CARE’s use of CDST with Cham communities in Vietnam’s Mekong Delta who are affected by increasing and more severe floods. It explores the ways CDST can be used to strengthen people’s capacity as equal participants in decision-making spaces, demonstrates how communicative processes can help shift inequities of voice and power, and highlights key values necessary to drive the participatory CDST process: community-driven, flexible and embedded, respectful; prioritises dialogue and listening, informed consent, smart technology choices.
Workshop: Discussions for leadership and adaptive responses in complex contexts

Deborah Rhodes, Leadership Strategies; Rhonda Chapman, Consultant; Mark Moran, University of Queensland and Meghan Cooper, ACFID

All of us are struggling with inequality, injustice and complexity at many different levels – within our own organisation, in the broader sector and in the rapidly changing world of development thinking and practice. The majority of practitioners in the development sector spend most of our time ‘doing’ development. Some cogitate on the big questions about why we are doing it, and what overall approaches are important, and further, how we can lead to bring about the big changes we seek. Overall however, many of us struggle to make sense of competing ideas and demands as we develop our careers and work out what leadership is needed in order to bring about the kind of change we work towards.

**Purpose:** This workshop aims to give participants a chance to collectively explore and reflect on the complexity of issues faced in the current development environment, drawing on lived experiences, and then hopefully to leave with a sense they can navigate more confidently in the next stage of their life journeys and careers.

**Audience:** This workshop is designed to appeal to a broad audience of development practitioners and researchers – anyone who sometimes asks themselves the questions ‘what is this all about?’ and ‘what is my role in this space?’

**Key questions:** The session will involve discussion within groups (facilitated by one of the panel members) in relation to one of the following questions:

- Are we development brokers? What is the appropriate balance for us as individuals between responding to the genuine priorities of partners and communities on the one hand and the agendas of our own organisation and donors on the other?
- What are the dominant cultural values that underpin our aid work? How do we reconcile our own values (e.g. egalitarian/inclusive, task-oriented, individualistic and risk oriented) with different values of our organisations and donors (e.g. results-oriented) and partners (e.g. hierarchical, relationship oriented)? Whose values really dominate and are we unknowingly trying to impose our values in other contexts?
- What works in terms of positive coping strategies and tactics? How have we successfully navigated and resolved the tensions and challenges involved in brokering between various agendas to date? What has worked well?

Assessing the equity of access to rural water systems in Timor-Leste

Kate Neely, Deakin University

Access to water is one of the world’s greatest resource inequities. In Timor Leste and many other countries rural residents are often required to form community based water user/management groups in order to build, manage and contribute financially to the maintenance of “their” water systems. This paper discusses the results of a PhD research project conducted in Timor-Leste. The research investigated complex interactions between NGOs and rural communities regarding the implementation and maintenance of spring fed water systems. The inequalities observed in accessibility and functionality are considered using systems thinking techniques. On the basis of observations and interviews with INGOs, local NGOs and residents of rural villages the researcher concludes that local hierarchical structures of family relationships and sacred houses have an impact on the functionality and location of water points in villages. The practical and theoretical conclusions
from this research highlight the need for NGOs to recognize and account for local inequality in existing social structures, so that equitable access to new resources may be achieved.

REDD+, PES, National Policy and the response of the local community in West Kalimantan, Indonesia

Semiarto A. Purwanto, University of Indonesia

The paper will describe the stakeholders’ responses to the changes of development programs in Ketapang, West Kalimantan, Indonesia, where a pilot project for REDD+ had been introduced in 2008. A year after, unfortunately, the project failed to fully be implemented. In response for the termination, Fauna & Flora Indonesia (FFI), an NGO that facilitated the process, proposed a new scenario to implement a national policy namely Village Forest program, then followed by Payment for Environment Services (PES) program for the community. We have been observing the process since 2010 by conducting a database research for FFI and examining the current situation. A strong impression we have is that the process implicitly shows an inequal relationship among the stakeholders although FFI would always put a participatory approach as its main strategy. We found that the local stakeholders’ responses are not mainly because of the REDD+ and PES ideas came from a global initiative, but also a result of the local reactions to national policies. The study opened up a fact that in the case of Ketapang, the power relation among local communities, NGOs, international agencies, and local bureaucracy takes place in local setting as a way for the community to articulate the traditional forest institution against national forest policy.

“Please come and help us”: Poverty and climate change in rural Nigeria programs can encourage women’s economic empowerment and participation

nnaEmeka Meribe, La Trobe University

Poverty problematises how developing countries respond to climate change. Poverty is reflected in many kinds of deprivation. Technological deprivation arising from inequalities in infrastructure and income distribution mean channels for communicating climate change and its effects, to the subsistence farmers of rural Nigeria, for example, are very limited. Crucial to adapting to the impacts of climate change, and limiting the exacerbation of poverty, is the provision of timely and accurate information. But to effectively communicate climate change adaptation to marginalised poor rural people, it is necessary to first understand their experiences, knowledge and understanding of climate change. Using qualitative research methods, this paper offers insights into farmers’ lived experiences of climate change in a Nigerian rural community. Findings showed that farmers knowledge of climate change was limited, as they draw on their socio-cultural frame of reference in seeking to understand changing circumstances. The farmers craved sophisticated information that would enable them to understand the confounding situation and properly adapt. Finding that the government may be further marginalising poor rural communities by not supplying them with accessible climate change adaptation information, this paper argues that the use of the new media in tandem with informal local communication networks can engage rural communities on climate change, addressing this poverty of communication, opening a discursive space that will allow rural farmers obtain better understanding of the impacts of the phenomenon on their livelihood.
Exploring the intersections and compounding impacts of inequality and climate variability in Bangladesh

Alex Hayes, Monash University

Drawing on a three year Oxfam Monash Partnership study in three districts in Bangladesh this paper explores how the myriad of existing inequalities appear to be exacerbated and amplified by climate variability and slow onset events. For Bangladeshis their geo-political position, their relatively recent history as a nation, their lack of natural resources, their geographical location and widespread inequalities all contribute to the complex challenges they are facing. More recently these stressors have been exacerbated by the increasing intensity of disasters, climate variability and climate change.

Given the depth of gender inequality and discriminatory structures it is difficult to comprehensively or directly link changes in women and men’s attitudes, behaviours, and gender roles to climate variability or climate change. It is perhaps easier when dealing with rapid onset events, particularly if focused on short-term changes. There is literature suggesting opportunities are created by crisis, and a phenomenon like climate change, can disrupt gender relations, but does a disruption change the status quo? Evidence of shifts in those dynamics may have the potential to lead to positive change but this cannot be predicted or verified. Are examples of gender roles shifting or women and men adopting different practices a signpost for future change that will move Bangladeshis towards achieving gender equality, or do they simply provide a different lens to look again at the pervasiveness of inequalities.

Bangladesh provides an especially rich case study as the fast pace and unpredictability of social, cultural, environmental and economic change can illuminate what is not visible in other places where change is not so rapid, and life not so precarious.
Student Forum
Disrupting Development: A forum for students, by students

As a part of the ACFID University Network Conference a student forum was run on the 3rd June, the day before the main event. The forum was not only for students - it was designed and run by students.

The aims of the forum were to create a participatory space for students to:
• Contribute to discussions about the key themes of the conference – inequality and poverty;
• Discuss what the themes mean; and
• Identify what students actions can be taken forward.

A report back from the forum about student’s deliberation and ideas will be a part of the main conference closing plenary through Brendan Rigby, University of Melbourne.

A very special thanks to the organising team of Monash staff and students as well as the team at WhyDev for leading this important initiative!
Map and Venue

Monash University Caulfield campus

Building H
- H1.16 for registration, lunch and cocktail event.

Building K
- K3.09 and K3.21 for keynote speakers.

Please note that if you need assistance, contact a conference volunteer.

The registration desk will be attended at all times for your convenience.