



Politics in Action:

**Navigating Regional Dynamics: Informing Research
Amid Emerging Political and Social Challenges**

Thursday 12 June 2025

Lecture Theatre 200, [Social Sciences Building](#),
Science Road, The University of Sydney

Sydney Southeast Asia Centre & the School of Social and Political Sciences



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SYDNEY
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Sydney Southeast
Asia Centre

Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

“To foster impactful research and trusted knowledge partnerships in Southeast Asia.”

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC) is Australia’s leading multidisciplinary research centre focused on Southeast Asia.

Since its establishment in 2012, SSEAC has been pivotal in developing the University of Sydney’s reputation for research excellence across the 11 countries of Southeast Asia (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam). Our strengths lie in our disciplinary breadth, multidisciplinary collaborations and comprehensive coverage of Southeast Asia.

With more than 400 academics across all faculties and schools working on and in Southeast Asia, the University of Sydney has one of the highest concentrations of regional expertise in the world.

Event proceedings

In this public forum, invited experts will provide an analysis of the current political situation in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and discuss the broader implications of events in these countries for our region.

Each of our country-specialists will present for up to 20 minutes, followed by a short Q&A session. The presentations are aimed at a broad audience and will appeal to academics and non-academics alike. These discussions hold significant value, especially for those engaged in various endeavours across one or more Southeast Asian nations.

All videos recorded as part of Politics in Action 2025 will be livestreamed via [zoom](#) and made available after the event on our [YouTube channel](#). Find all the links on the [Politics in Action webpage](#).



Program

Thursday 12 June 2025, 10:30 – 15:40

Time (AEST)	Topic	Presenter	Institution
10:30	Registration & morning tea		
SESSION 1 chaired by Dr Aim Sinpeng			
10:50	Welcome and opening	Prof Greg Fox	Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
11:00	Vietnam	Mr Andrew Goledzinowski	Former Ambassador of Australia to Vietnam
11:30	Thailand	Dr Ladawan Khaikham	Kasetsart University
12:00	Philippines	Dr SolIglesias	University of Philippines
12:30	Lunch – served at (location)		
SESSION 2 chaired by Associate Professor Jeff Neilson			
13:30	Singapore	Dr Gillian Koh	Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
14:00	Malaysia	Assoc. Prof Ross Tapsell	Australian National University
14:30	Indonesia	Dr Liam Gammon	Australian National University
15:00	Roundtable on Southeast Asia's Geopolitics: a New Order		
15:30	Closing address		
15:40	End of event		

Indonesia

Dr Liam Gammon

Australian National University



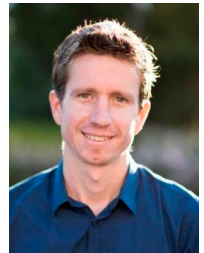
Liam Gammon is a Research Fellow at the East Asian Bureau of Economic Research (EABER) at the Crawford School of Public Policy. A specialist in contemporary Indonesian politics, he also convenes an introductory ANU undergraduate course in Asian politics. As an awardee of the 2024 Japan Foundation Indo-Pacific Partnerships Program (JFIPP) Research Fellowship, he is engaged in ongoing survey-based research into the political values of Gen-Z voters in Indonesia.

Liam is the editor of New Mandala, the ANU-based Southeast Asian studies website, and is a member of the editorial board of East Asia Forum. He received his PhD from the ANU Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs for a thesis examining the role Indonesia's electoral institutions played in moderating the impacts of populism on the post-reformasi political system.

Malaysia

Associate Professor Ross Tapsell

Australian National University

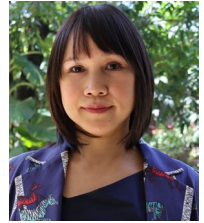


Ross Tapsell is an Associate Professor at the Australian National University's College of Asia and the Pacific. He is currently Director of the ANU's Malaysia Institute, which fosters a closer relationship between Australia and Malaysia through research and dialogue. He is the author of books and journal articles on media, culture, politics and society in Southeast Asia, predominantly Indonesia and Malaysia, and has written for The New York Times, The Guardian, VICE and other publications in the Southeast Asian region.

Philippines

Dr Sol Iglesias

University of Philippines



Sol Iglesias is an assistant professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines. She is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of New Mandala and co-convenor of the Women in Southeast Asian Social Sciences. She was the Inaugural Scholar-in-Residence of the Justice in Southeast Asia Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2023. The American Political Science Association's (APSA) Democracy and Autocracy Committee selected her as an Emerging Scholar in 2020 and she won an APSA Asia Program fellowship and research grant in 2021. She was a Southeast Asia Research Group Fellow in 2017. She has a Ph.D. in Southeast Asian Studies and an M.A. in Political Science from the National University of Singapore as well as an M.A. in International Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and a B.A. in Public Administration from the University of the Philippines.

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Singapore

Dr Gillian Koh

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy



Gillian KOH is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), National University of Singapore.

Her research interests are in electoral politics, the development of civil society and state-society relations in Singapore. Among other things, she conducts surveys on Singaporeans' political attitudes, sense of identity, rootedness and resilience and has also helmed several IPS scenario-planning projects.

She has published and co-published articles on civil society and political development in Singapore. She was co-editor of Migration and Integration in Singapore: Policies and Practice (2015) as well as State-Society Relations in Singapore (2000) and Civil Society and the State in Singapore (2017) and co-author of Singapore Chronicles: Civil Society (2016) as well as Social Capital in Singapore. The Power of Network Diversity (2021).

She was Deputy Director (Research) at IPS from 2016 to 2023. She received her PhD in Sociological Studies from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom in 1995 and has been at the Institute since 1996.

Thailand

Dr Ladawan Khaikham

Kasetsart University



Ladawan Khaikham (PhD) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Kasetsart University, Thailand. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Australian National University and an MSc in Political Theory from the London School of Economics. Her research focuses on environmental politics, political theory, and human rights, with a growing emphasis on Chinese governance and sustainable development. Her ongoing research projects explore democratic environmentalism in Southeast Asia and comparative public policy responses to pollution across the region. She is actively engaged in regional academic dialogues, with presentations at several conferences such as EuroSEAS and the International Conference on Democracy and Elections in Asia.

[ResearchGate](#)

Vietnam

Andrew Goledzinowski

Former Australian Ambassador to Vietnam



During a distinguished diplomatic career, Andrew Goledzinowski AM served as Australia's Ambassador to Vietnam, High Commissioner to Malaysia, Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking Issues and Ambassador/Deputy PR to the United Nations. He was also posted to Geneva, Port Vila, Pretoria and Wellington and led numerous emergency deployments e.g. Ukraine, Iraq, Syria and Fiji.

In addition to his diplomatic postings, Andrew served as: Chief of Staff to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Chair of International Cooperation within the Iraqi Coalition Provisional Authority, Head of the World Bank Office in Baghdad, and Senior Adviser to two Australian Foreign Ministers. Presently, Andrew is working as an independent advisor and consultant. He is a Fellow of the Australia Vietnam Policy Institute, a Board Member of the Australia Vietnam Medical Foundation, Strategic Advisor to the Vietnam-Australia Scholars and Experts Association (VASEA) and Patron of Global Viet Women. Andrew has received numerous awards for his work, most recently being honored with a Doctorate of Laws in recognition of his contributions to international relations.

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