

LA TROBE ASIA ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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Cover Photo :

Cut the Tag: Paul Keating on Australia’s place in the New World, 28 April 2017

The Hon. Paul Keating, Allan Gyngell AO and Professor Nick Bisley on stage at the Melbourne Recital Centre

LA TROBE ASIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

This report provides a detailed overview of the range of activities undertaken by La Trobe Asia in its fourth year.

Introduction

La Trobe Asia strengthens and deepens the University's academic engagement with the region by building strong partnerships, supporting research and shaping public debate.

Governance

La Trobe Asia Steering Committee

The work of La Trobe Asia is overseen by its Steering Committee. The membership of the Steering Committee in 2017 was:

- Professor Keith Nugent, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Chair
- Professor Robert Pike, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Science, Health and Engineering
- Kelly Smith, Pro Vice-Chancellor, International
- Dr Catherine Itsiopoulos, Head of School of Allied Health, College of Science, Health and Engineering
- Professor Helen Lee, Anthropology, Department of Social Inquiry, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce
- Associate Professor Savitri Taylor, Law, La Trobe Law School, College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce

The Steering Committee met six times during 2017.

La Trobe Asia Advisory Board

La Trobe Asia's Advisory Board provides advice and guidance to the Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Director on developments external to the University, in particular into developments in

Asia's tertiary sector, opportunities for partnerships with Asian universities in research, teaching and student mobility. It also provides external advice on the operations of La Trobe Asia. The first Advisory Board came to the end of their term at the end of 2016. In 2017 a new board was appointed for a two-year term.

The Advisory Board for 2017-2018 is comprised of:

- Professor Meenakshi Gopinath, Founder and Director of WISCOMP (Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace) and Principal Emerita of Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi
- Linda Jakobson, CEO and Founding Director, China Matters
- Emeritus Professor Robin Jeffrey, La Trobe University and National University of Singapore
- Mark Lawrie, Managing Partner at PwC Australia
- Dr Geoff Raby, Chairman and CEO, Geoff Raby & Associates
- Dr Kristin Sadler, Research Director (Strategy and Biosciences) and a member of the Research Strategy and Coordination Group in the President's Office at Nanyang Technological University

The Advisory Board met in August 2017.

Public Events

Public lectures, forums, and seminars provide a platform for La Trobe Asia to showcase La Trobe University academic talent, to make interventions in issues of public debate and engage the University community. Events were open to staff and students as well as members of the public, and were held across Victoria, China and Japan.

In summary:

- Over 30 different events (seminars, public forums, delegations, symposiums, launches, showcases, networking) were held in 2017 (see Appendix 1).
- La Trobe Asia collaborated with 22 different internal and external groups to present these events and total attendance exceeded 2600.
- Speakers included La Trobe University academics covering their area of expertise, as well as visiting scholars and guests:
 - Paul Keating
 - Dr Nicole Curato (University of Canberra)
 - Professor HOU Minyue (East China Normal University)
 - Professor CHEN Hong (East China Normal University)
 - Linda Jakobson (China Matters)
 - Gareth Evans
 - Louisa Lim (University of Melbourne)

- Adam Roberts (The Economist)
 - Professor Ed Vickers (Kyushu University)
 - Murray McLean, former Australian Ambassador to Japan
 - Richard McGregor (Washington)
 - Professor HAN Shihui (Peking University)
 - Allan Gyngell, former director general of the Office of National Assessments
 - Kevin Rudd
- Events focused on a wide range of topics and issues in many different countries including Australia-Japan relations, Australia-China relations, Asia's geopolitics, education in China and politics in the Philippines.
 - La Trobe Asia collaborated with the John Richards Initiative to deliver the 3rd Annual Symposium on Ageing and Old-Age in Asia-Pacific. This was a two-day event with participants and speakers from the region sharing knowledge about ageing.
 - The relationship with Kyushu University continued to develop in 2017 with a two-day expert's workshop examining the challenges confronting Asia's security order. "Understanding East Asia's Contested Security Order" received grant funding from the Australia-Japan Foundation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The workshop brought together established and emerging scholars from Japan, Australia, Southeast Asia, Korea and China. The ideas generated by the workshop will contribute to a short policy paper, a special issue of a scholarly journal as well as several policy focused essays in 2018.



Experts Workshop participants – September 2017

(Standing L-R: Zhexin Zhang, Mie Oba, Kyoko Hatakeyama, Leif-Eric Easley, Bec Strating, Chisako Masuo, Nick Bisley, Nobuhiro Aizawa, Vannarith Chheang [absent: Kei Koga])

Website

The La Trobe Asia website continues to be an important showcase of La Trobe's Asia work and has many resources including: podcasts, links to recent publications, op-eds, the library's regional resources, news, events, grant information, country strategies and research.

The La Trobe Asia website had **10,513 page views** in 2017 (down from 10,789 in 2016), with an average visitor traffic of **32.8 page views per day**. Peak traffic periods coincided with high-profile public events.

La Trobe University's 'Asia knowledge broker'

A key part of La Trobe Asia's role is to support the Asia focused work of La Trobe staff. In 2017 we continued to collaborate with people across the University including: La Trobe International (LTI), La Trobe Abroad, Alumni and Advancement Office (AAO), Schools and Departments from both colleges, individual academics and researchers, student groups.

In 2017 La Trobe Asia had over 330 initial interactions involving a range of activities ranging from information sharing, connecting people both internally and externally, the provision of strategic advice and other forms of assistance of some kind. 54% of these interactions were with internal stakeholders.

By the end of December 2017, La Trobe Asia's database of contacts had doubled from 2016 and is now in excess of 3000. Contacts receive regular newsletters and emails alerting them to events or information with an 'open' rate between 30-40% and click through rates for newsletters around 2% and up to 5% for event information.

Building a knowledge network

- We have continued to work closely to support La Trobe Abroad with New Colombo Plan (NCP) applications and other student mobility opportunities.
- We have completed Country Briefs for each country in Asia (twenty six in total). In 2017 these were made available for La Trobe University staff on the intranet. This resource captures most of the University's engagement in individual countries from transnational education (TNE), research, alumni, marketing, recruitment as well as general information from external sources.
- La Trobe Asia has prepared a number of concept papers on behalf of senior leadership and provided strategic advice on a range of matters.

Promote the University's Asia vision and activities with the broader community in Australia and the region

La Trobe Asia has had 156 contacts with external bodies in a range of professional relationships, most notably:

- La Trobe Asia collaborated with East China Normal University to present the second Australia-China Forum in Shanghai on 21 November 2017. Around thirty-five people attended this event which examined the interactions between China and Australia, and the key challenges and opportunities confronting the bilateral relationship.

The speakers were:

- Professor Nick Bisley (La Trobe Asia, La Trobe University)
- Professor Chen Hong (Australian Studies Centre, East China Normal University)
- Professor Hou Minyue (Australian Studies Centre, East China Normal University)
- Associate Professor James Leibold (Politics and Philosophy, La Trobe University)

The panel prompted public debate and discussion with four primary pieces of media:

- [Australian Financial Review](#)
- [Australian Financial Review - Op Ed](#)
- [ABC](#)
- [Lowy Interpreter](#)



Second Australia-China Forum, Shanghai – November 2017

- In addition to relationships with East China Normal University and Kyushu University, La Trobe Asia has continued to strengthen University partnerships with: the Australia India Institute (AII), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Beijing Foreign Studies University and China Matters.
- Together with the Griffith Asia Institute, we invited Adam Roberts, journalist for *The Economist* to visit Australia to speak about his new book *Superfast Primetime Ultimate Nation: The Relentless Invention of Modern India*. Events included the launch at the State Library of Victoria and presentation to journalism students, a lecture in Brisbane and at the ANU as well as government briefings with ONA and DFAT. Adam was also interviewed for the Asia Rising podcast.



Nick Bisley and Adam Roberts, State Library Victoria – September 2017

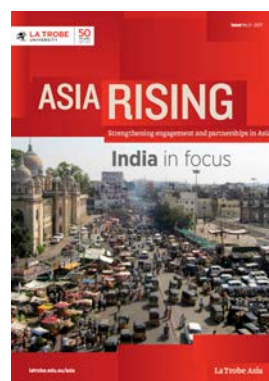
- La Trobe University hosted a Hindi workshop as part of the India Week in Melbourne, organised by the Australia India Institute. Several themes emerged over the course of the day forming a strong case for the importance of Hindi language in Australia, and for the India-Australia relationship. **Judith Graley, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Education**, joined for a roundtable after lunch. We were pleased to host guests from India, Aditi Maheshwari, Varun Grover, and Mrinal Pande, who enriched the proceedings with their insights and expertise as well as others from across Australia.



Hindi Workshop – October 2017

- La Trobe Asia launched a number of books and papers throughout the year in addition to those mentioned above.
 - *China Matters: Getting It Right For Australia*, Bates Gill and Linda Jakobson, La Trobe University Press
 - *Fear of Abandonment: Australia in the world since 1942*, Allan Gyngell, La Trobe University Press
 - *Integrated Asia: Australia's new strategic geography*, Nick Bisley, The Centre of Gravity Series, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University
 - *A Duterte Reader: Critical Essays On Rodrigo Duterte's Early Presidency*, Nicole Curato (Editor), Ateneo de Manila University Press

- La Trobe Asia published its fourth and fifth issues of the print publication *Asia Rising*, a 12-16 page print publication focussing on Asia related research. The publication is intended to showcase the work of La Trobe academics to improve knowledge of this work both internally and externally.



Making La Trobe a genuinely Asia-focused institution

- The Research Grant Program was established in 2014. Just under \$60,000 was disbursed to 13 researchers in July and August. To date, nine articles have been published and three others have been submitted to journals.
- In 2015 just over \$60,000 was disbursed to a further 14 researchers in May. Eleven publications have resulted from these grants with a further four submitted and another six research projects reporting as work in progress.
- In 2016 just under \$30,000 was disbursed to a further six researchers in April. Two publications have resulted from these grants with a further four submitted and another three research projects reporting as work in progress.
- The La Trobe Asia Visiting Fellows grant program was established for 2016. The four Fellows who visited have collaborated with La Trobe academics, and resulted in five publications with another two submitted.
- In 2017 just under \$20,000 was disbursed to four researchers. All have reported that their work is still very much in progress and hope to be in a position to submit for publication in 2018.
- The La Trobe Asia Visiting Fellows grant program was continued in 2017 with four Fellows visiting La Trobe. Their collaborations with La Trobe researchers are in the early stages and it is expected that publications from their work will start to appear in 2018-2019.

Lead and inform public debate in Australia about Asia and contribute to public debate in the region

La Trobe Asia and La Trobe's Asia-focused experts has had **152 interactions** with the media, including the following highlights:

- The Executive Director published 32 Op-Eds in national and international venues, there have been 15 other Asia focused Op-Eds from La Trobe academics published in 2017.
- The Executive Director has appeared on television or radio 21 times during 2017 and has been contacted often for comment, resulting in quotes in many web/print publications around the world including: Japan Times, Bloomberg, The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Australian Financial Review, The New York Times, Time, Jakarta Globe, The Australian and Weekendavisen (Denmark).

- 22 journal publications, two reports and two books were published in 2017 and highlighted on the La Trobe Asia website (under [Resources/Publications](#)).

Podcasts

Asia Rising as a podcast series began in March 2014. At the end of 2017 it had reached episode #85. In 2017, 35 recordings were made (25 podcast interviews and ten recordings of public events).

- Downloads 2017: 269,728 (including 8,777 SoundCloud)
- Downloads 2016: 181,579 (including 6,338 SoundCloud)
- Downloads cumulative: 560,879

Note: These numbers include both the podcast interviews (Asia Rising) and public lecture recordings which are published separately to the interviews. This represents a 72% increase on 2016 downloads. Majority of the audience comes from Australia, United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Hong Kong. The consistent subscriber audience appears to be around 4,000+, but this number is highly variable depending on topic.

Top 10 downloads of 2017

1. The Glass Ceiling in Japan (Host: Matt Smith; Guest: Emma Dalton) - 11,421
2. Chairman Mao's Little Red Book (Host: Matt Smith; Guest: James Leibold) - 9,859
3. Australian Foreign Policy and Asia (Host: Matt Smith, Guest: Allan Gyngell) - 8,387
4. Are we still in the Asian Century? (Host: Nick Bisley; Guest: Andrew Leigh) - 8,291
5. Human Rights Abuses in North Korea (Host: Matt Smith; Guest: Danielle Chubb) - 7,725
6. The Great Wall of China (Host: Matt Smith; Guests: James Leibold, Graeme Smith) - 7,473
7. The Belt and Road Initiative (Host: Nick Bisley; Guest: Luca Aneschi) - 7,244
8. The World is Trumped! (Host: Matt Smith; Guests: Kamuda Simpson, Nick Bisley) - 6,986
9. India and the English-Speaking World (Host: Matt Smith; Guest: Alexander Davis) - 6,661
10. China-Australia Relations: Affluence, Influence and Soft Power (Lecture)(Speakers: Nick Bisley, Chen Hong, Hou Minyue, James Leibold) - 6,509

Feedback:



★★★★★ **So much info & insight!**

by kcvinweho from United States on 30 Aug 2017

Hugely informative and insightful! It's a real insider's look at aspects of Asian society, politics, economics, culture. Experts explore each topic in-depth, but episodes never drag.

Another great LaTrobe podcast!



★★★★★ **Insightful and engaging**

by Yang Ch'ng from Australia on 26 Oct 2017

This is my go-to podcast for Asian matters. It covers a broad range of countries and topics of interest from economics to anthropology to politics. Great stuff!

On 27/10/17, 4:12 pm, "Andrej Nitsche" <andrej.nitsche@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Matt,

I'm not sure if it's always you who moderates the podcast but I think you've did a fair number of them. I'm currently catching up on the past and just finished listening to the one on Mao's Red Book. I just wanted to drop you a line to let you know how much I enjoy the podcast. The style of the conversation is usually super relaxed, witty and engaging, but at the same time there's so much content and insight. It's a real pleasure to listen to. Thank you so much for producing this, and I hope you and your team will continue to do this for some time to come!

Kind regards,

Andrej

Andrej Nitsche, Zurich, Switzerland



ASIA RISING



Appendix 1

Name of event	Date of Event	Type of Event	Partner	Country	Number attended
Afternoon Tea to welcome La Trobe Asia Visiting Fellow	24-Feb-17	Afternoon Tea/Networking	Department of Physics and Chemistry	Asia	~15
Showcase - Overseas Opportunities	7-Mar-17	Showcase	La Trobe Abroad	Asia	53
Dr Benjamin Habib – Will China lead the world in global climate politics?	24-Mar-17	Seminar	Department of Politics and Philosophy	China	25
Dr Kerstin Steiner – 1MDB: Malaysia’s financial scandal – A tangled web of politics, economics and law	29-Mar-17	Seminar	La Trobe Law School	Malaysia	32
NCP Mobility Applications Workshop	30-Mar-17	Workshop	La Trobe Abroad	Asia	29
China Matters: Getting it Right for Australia Book Launch	30-Mar-17	Launch	China Matters	China	77
Fear of Abandonment: Australia in the world since 1942 Book Launch	5-Apr-17	Launch	La Trobe University Press	Asia	53
Multimedia, Mobility and the Digital Southeast Asian Family Two-day Research Workshop	20-21-Apr-17	Workshop	Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria – Canada	Southeast Asia	35

Cut the Tag: Paul Keating on Australia's place in the New World	28-Apr-17	Public Forum	Ideas and Society	Asia	~ 850
ASEAN Panel – Asialink event	16-May-17	Public Forum	Asialink	Asia	~30
China's war on the past: History in the people's republic of amnesia	25-May-17	Seminar	La Trobe Asia	China	15
Religious influences on behavioural and brain response to mortality threats	31-May-17	Public Lecture	School of Psychology and Public Health	Asia	34
Morning Tea to welcome La Trobe Asia Visiting Fellow	7-Jun-17	Morning Tea/Networking	Department of Psychology	China	15
Understanding of the self: Cultural neuroscience approach / Cultural neuroscience studies of racial ingroup bias in empathy – masterclasses (x 2)	9-Jun-17	Masterclass	School of Psychology and Public Health	Asia	20
Integrated Asia: Australia's new strategic geography	20-Jun-17	Launch	Strategic and Defence Studies Centre	Asia	34
Disruptive Asia – Asia Society event	30-Jun-17	Public Forum	Asia Society (at NGV)	Asia	~100
Asia's Reckoning: China, Japan, the U.S., and global power	1-Aug-17	Seminar	La Trobe Asia	Japan	28
Japan faces and uncertain Asia: Abe's bold vision for the future	2-Aug-17	Public Forum	La Trobe Asia	Japan	53
Duterte's ambition: A challenging future for the Philippines	16-Aug-17	Seminar	Philippines Australia Studies Centre	Philippines	23

Morning Tea – Bendigo Campus	17-Aug-17	Morning Tea/Networking	La Trobe Asia	Asia	~5
Rethinking education in China: Lessons from the post-Mao period	28-Aug-17	Seminar	China Studies Research Centre	China	25
The Relentless Invention of Modern India	12-Sep-17	Public Forum	Griffith Asia Institute	India	112
China’s influence: Propaganda, persuasion, and soft power in Australia	19-Sep-17	Public Forum	La Trobe Asia	China	134
Understanding East Asia’s Contested Security Order Experts Research Workshop	28-29-Sep-17	Workshop by invitation	Kyushu University	Japan	10
Kyushu University	10-Oct-17	Delegation	John Richards Initiative	Japan	10
The 3rd Annual Symposium on Ageing and Old-Age in Asia-Pacific	11-12-Oct-17	Symposium	John Richards Initiative	Asia	63
Age-friendliness and liveability in Victoria – breakfast panel	12-Oct-17	Public Forum	John Richards Initiative	Asia	75
Hindi Workshop 2017	24-Oct-17	Workshop	Department of Languages and Linguistics and the Australia India Institute	India	37
Kevin Rudd on China’s Rise and a New World Order	26-Oct-17	Public Forum	Ideas and Society	Asia	493
The Changing World Order? Gareth Evans on Australia and the rise of China	15-Nov-17	Public Forum	La Trobe Asia	China	132

China-Australia Relations: Affluence, influence and soft power – Second Annual Australia-China Forum in Shanghai	21-Nov-17	Public Forum	East China Normal University	China	~35
Reading Duterte’s Reign	30-Nov-17	Book Launch	Philippines Australia Study Centre	Philippines	24
Kyushu University	14-15-Dec-17	Delegation	SHE	Japan	15
Total number of events	33		Total number of partners 22	Total attendees	2691