

INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SECURITY  
AND SOCIAL CHANGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year has been a busy one for the Institute which has seen us develop on a number of fronts.

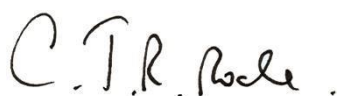
First and foremost 2015 was the first full year of our research partnership with the University of Birmingham and University College London on the DFAT funded Developmental Leadership Program. This has allowed us to recruit two research fellows and be part of an active network of researchers working on the politics of development.

We have also further developed our work program with the Fiji based Pacific Leadership Program engaging in ongoing action research initiatives and preparing a number of synthesis studies drawing out broader conclusions from this work which will be published in 2016.

Fittingly in the year the world agreed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) we have also been undertaking research with some of Australia's leading International NGOs on the SDGs and transformational development: exploring what that lofty phrase means in practice.

In addition to this important research agenda we have continued to engage in outreach work to further disseminate our findings but also to help create safe spaces for dialogue on the nature of development processes. Highlights have included: the development of a development masterclass for the Asia Pacific Journalism Centre, for emerging journalists; a presentation to Oxfam International CEOs and Board Directors on 'the Future of International NGOs'; supporting the DFAT Australia Awards scheme, running two workshops on Developmental Leadership for returning scholars; co-hosting a conference on Communication for Development approaches for the Australian NGO sector and academia; and designing and facilitating a workshop for the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID) on 'Changing the world and Changing Ourselves'.

All of which provides us with fresh, exciting and up to date material which is integrated into our Master of International Development. A course that provides a unique take on contemporary development practice and which is delivered by highly experienced practitioners. We are very excited about the fact that in 2016 we will also be delivering a professional development program for NGO leaders in collaboration with ACFID based on our Masters and our research findings. Watch this space!



Associate Prof. Chris Roche

**Institute Director**

**Chair in International Development, Senior Research Partner with the Developmental Leadership Program**

# 1. ABOUT US

## 1.1 Our Aim

The Institute aims to better understand, support and share the practice of activists, practitioners, citizens and collective action processes in promoting human security and progressive social change.

We broker collaborations between researchers, practitioners and other actors to conduct applied research, consultancy, professional development, training, and public policy debate.

We distil our insights to share amongst, support and challenge change agents to develop effective practice; to inform teaching and professional development to equip the next generation of activists and practitioners; and to help shape theory, policy, and organisational and governance systems.

In doing so, we:

- Work to better understand and respond to **complexity**.
- Recognise the **power and political dimensions** of social change.
- Seek to promote **norms** of gender equality, participation and inclusive development.
- Aim to strengthen the capacity of **citizens and civil society** to hold states and private sector actors to account and 'change the rules of the game'.
- Are interested in the role of **collective action** (alliances, coalitions and social movements) and how it can be best supported, including exploring what **institutional forms and arrangements** can underpin collective action at multiple levels.

## 1.2 Our Focus Areas

The Institute's research, consultancy, training and teaching activities focus on:

- Promoting and sharing innovative, effective, inclusive and participatory development practice.
- Analysing and testing how to value different forms of knowledge and evidence that enable and support effective development practice.
- Understanding and supporting the role of collective action and leadership in advancing social change, particularly in the Pacific, Indigenous Australia, and women's leadership.
- Exploring the organisational, institutional and policy arrangements that enable collective action and effective development practice.
- Facilitating the role of alliances, coalitions and social movements in promoting progressive social change.

Our geographical focus is **Australia, the Pacific and Asia**.

## 1.3 Our Framework

The increasing complexity of our world and perennial social problems demand responses founded in multi-disciplinary thinking, multiple perspectives, and local and transnational collective action.

Activists, practitioners and citizens on the 'front-line' provide us with important knowledge and wisdom about how complexity, uncertainty and political reality are navigated: and how social change practice is played out in different contexts.

We seek to play a role in exploring the complexity of these processes and supporting the work of social change agents, individuals and collectives. We recognise social change requires transforming structures of power and institutions. Our framework shows the interplay between our work and the change we aspire to promote with our collaborators.

## 1.4 Our Theory of Change

Social change is a complex phenomenon. We understand that we live in a world of complex development problems and that these problems require multi-disciplinary thinking, multiple perspectives on a local and transnational level. To work towards solving these problems we advocate collective action.

The Institute sees itself as a vehicle for positive social change. Our theory of change encapsulates our role in social change processes. Activists, practitioners and citizens provide us with important practical knowledge about how to navigate the complexity and political realities of development and social change. We seek to share our understanding of the social change process with other practitioners and to challenge their assumptions.

This understanding also informs our teaching and professional development and helps to shape organisational and governance systems, policy and theory, allowing us to equip the next generation of activists.

## 2. OUR CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL CHANGE

The Institute sees itself as a vehicle for positive and progressive social change. We are committed to supporting agents of progressive social change through our research agenda, teaching and professional development activities, engagement with practice, public policy dialogue and consulting activities.

The following section describes a range of our research activities, teaching and consultancy activities and public policy dialogue during this period. Common across these activities is the importance of working with practitioners to understand their goals, challenges and solutions to these challenges.

### 2.1 Research projects

#### *Transformation and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

**Project:** Working towards transformational development and the Sustainable Development Goals: commenced 2015 completing 2016

**Team Members:** Ass/Prof Chris Roche, Annette Madvig

**Funding:** La Trobe's Disciplinary Research Program/ Oxfam Australia/ ActionAid Australia/ Caritas Australia/ABM.

World leaders launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 25 September 2015, boosting global aspirations to improve the conditions and opportunities that shape people's lives and their interactions with the planet.

The concept of "transformation" is central to the declaration of ambitious normative intent launched at the UN Sustainable Development Summit, *Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for global action*, which sets out the SDGs. Yet the *2030 Agenda* is imprecise about what is meant by transformation and the mechanisms of change that might bring it about.

This research works with industry partners: Oxfam Australia, Caritas Australia, ActionAid Australia and the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM), and asks whether it is possible to define more clearly what transformation is and explore how international NGOs are seeking to support processes of transformative change.

#### *Supporting the rights to equal participation of the disabled community in the Pacific*

**Project:** What are the gaps to implementing a rights-based disability approach with people with spinal cord injury and related neurological disabilities in Pacific Island countries? Commenced 2015 completing 2016

**Team Members:** Professor Christina Bigby (School of Allied Health, College of SHE), Dr Lisa Chaffey (Living with a Disability research Centre, College of SHE), and Kylie Mines (Motivation Australia)

**Funding:** La Trobe's Disciplinary Research Program



This study aims to identify the gaps in health literacy, mobility skills, and self-confidence that directly impact on the ability of people with SCI in Pacific Island Countries to achieve their right to equal participation in their community. The study has two research questions:

1. How do gaps in health literacy, mobility skills and low self-confidence obstruct the community and economic participation of people with SCI in Pacific Island countries and thus the implementation of a rights-based approach?
2. What are the experiences of people with SCI who participate in peer support and training programs and do they perceive such programs as increasing their health literacy, mobility skills and self-confidence.

The finding of this study will inform policies and practice of rehabilitation, service provision, and future peer support and training program for people with SCI in Pacific Island countries.

*Progressive social change research award (in conjunction with the University of Goroka)*

**Project:** Progressive Social Research Award: Commenced 2015 completing 2016

**Team Members:** Dr Gillian Fletcher, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, and Dr Verena Thomas, Centre for Social and Creative Media, University of Goroka.

**Funding:** La Trobe's Disciplinary Research Program

The Award was presented to Mr Aaron Inamara for his research titled 'Women's Role In Brokering Peace and Reconciliation Among Manam Indigenous Displaced People (IDPs) and Hosting Communities on Mainland Bogia, Madang Province, PNG'. Aaron is using a participatory, visual methodology to capture stories of building friendship, trust and peace in the wake of conflicts and atrocities that took place in Bogia between 2009 and 2013. The A\$20,000 Award provides Aaron with a stipend for the period of his research, and fund research activities. Dr Fletcher and Dr Thomas are providing research supervision.

*Communication for Development (C4D)*

**Project:** Communicating gender equality for social change in Melanesia. Commenced 2015 completing 2016

**Team Members:** Tait Brimacombe

**Funding:** Developmental Leadership Program

The promotion of gender equality is a key development goal for the Pacific region, particularly addressing gendered power structures and combating inequality and gender-based violence in Melanesia. Communication is central to these efforts as a means of changing attitudes, values and beliefs and promoting positive social change.

This research aims to provide insights into the use of communication tools, techniques and platforms to challenge gender norms and stereotypes and/or promote social change. It will explore the conditions that enable or constrain such practices, particularly the role of the donor community.

This research uses a case study approach to explore examples of innovative communication (including theatre, radio and film) to promote gender equality across Vanuatu, Fiji, PNG and Solomon Islands.

*Civil Society and Coalitions*

**Project:** Power, Politics & Coalitions in the Pacific. Commenced 2015 completing 2016

**Team Members:** Tait Brimacombe, Dr Gillian Fletcher, Chris Roche

**Funding:** Developmental Leadership Program

Research on women's leadership in the Pacific has been largely concentrated on the formal political realm, with a strong focus and critique on the role of quotas and temporary special measures. By contrast, less attention has been paid to the more informal, and often de-politicised spaces for women's leadership in the Pacific, particularly through the work of civil society and coalitions. This has occurred despite the importance of this domain for

challenging and transforming gendered power structures and relations, including addressing obstacles that inhibit the emergence of women's leadership.

This research explores the role played by coalitions in challenged gendered power structures and/or promoting social change across the Pacific, with a particular focus on how these processes are enabled or constrained by external actors, particularly the donor community. Using a case study approach, this research explores the formation and working of five coalitions of varying type and size from throughout the Pacific (specifically Fiji, PNG, Tonga and Kiribati).

Through this research we sought to understand how these coalitions were formed and the processes by which they worked, with a particular emphasis on how they engaged with different power structures.

#### *Gender-Based Violence*

*Project: What Works? Primary Prevention of Gender-based Violence in PNG. Commenced 2015 completing 2016*

*Team Members: Dr Gillian Fletcher*

*Funding: Developmental Leadership Program*

This action research project explores what is happening in PNG in terms of primary prevention of gender-based violence, and how work that is considered effective can be further built on. Stage one of the research involved background discussions and a short survey intended to identify interesting work. Phase Two will consist of participatory research workshops (to be held in Goroka and Port Moresby) in which practitioners and policy makers come together to discuss ways forward.

#### *Economic Development and Gender Equality*

*Project: Research on the Effects of Economic Development on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Goals*

*Team Members: Dr Katherine McKinnon, Clare Shamier & Kerry Woodward*

*Funding: World Vision*

In January 2015, World Vision Australia commissioned a study to investigate the gendered impacts of a successful economic development project, the Local Value Chain Development (LVCD). The LVCD project was implemented by World Vision Indonesia with support from World Vision Australia, in the Flores-Timor Province of Eastern Indonesia 2009-2012. This research offers insights into the gender dynamics of the East Flores communities in which the LVCD pilot project was implemented and seeks to understand how the LVCD project itself may have influenced these gender dynamics or created opportunities for change to gender relations

#### *Action Research work with Pacific Leadership Program Phase 3 (PLP3)*

PLP3 is a regional governance initiative of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) that recognises the pivotal role of leadership in development. PLP3 builds, applies and shares knowledge on developmental leadership, i.e. leadership involving collective action towards locally owned, inclusive policy and institutional change for the public good. PLP3 recognises that developmental leadership is a complex, unpredictable process requiring flexible and adaptive support. The Program works with influential individuals, organisations and coalitions to learn from and support them in the exercise of developmental leadership. The Institute is the research partner for PLP's program of action research.

*Project: Coalitions for Change in the Pacific: A comparative analysis of PLP's action-research case studies. Commenced 2015. Completing 2016*

*Team Members: Dr Lisa Denney and Rebecca McLaren*

*Funding: Pacific Leadership Program*

Over the last few years a number of agencies and institutions have been involved in developing action research processes designed to understand processes of developmental change and 'thinking and working politically' which

more routine monitoring and evaluation generally fail to produce. This paper examines PLP supported partnerships and coalitions in light of this body of work.

To date, PLP3 has generated a set of 'base-line' reports and case studies for PLP supported coalitions and partnerships, and ongoing plans for further action-research have been developed. This paper will distil the findings from these existing studies, analyse the similarities and differences which emerge, and relate them to the broader literature on Developmental Leadership, Women's Leadership in the Pacific, Thinking and Working Politically, Coalitions in the Politics of Development, and Doing Development Differently.

*Project: Evaluation of SPC's Youth@Work program (Solomon Islands): Commenced in 2015 completing 2016*

*Team Members: Diane McDonald and Damian Kyloh*

*Funding: Pacific Leadership Program*

The Youth@Work program was devised by the Solomon Islands Country Office of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in conjunction with the then Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation and Peace and PLP Advisory Panel member, Mrs Joy Kere. It was a practical response to the growing issue of youth unemployment in Solomon Islands, a key national development priority for the Solomon Islands government.

The purpose of this assignment is to conduct an evaluation and review of Youth@Work focusing on documenting what is unique about the initiative and the context it emerged from. The evaluation also analysed the effectiveness and efficiency of the Youth@Work model and program, lessons learned from implementation, and key risks and opportunities for the Program going forward.

*Project: Action Research of 'Change for Simbo' Women's Empowerment Pilot Initiative (Solomon Islands). Ongoing research.*

*Team Members: Dr Lesley Hoatson*

*Funding: Pacific Leadership Program*

'Change for Simbo' commenced in July 2013. It involves a range of stakeholders including PLP, Samoa Women in Business Development Inc (SWIBDI), provincial government, and women and tribal leaders of the Ngarilulubi Tribal Association (NTA). The initial focus of the pilot phase of 'Change for Simbo' was to support, through the introduction of small-scale production of organic certified, high value niche agricultural exports, and linking producers on Simbo with existing export markets. By adding value to a number of products (starting with coconut oil), women and their families would be able to earn an income at the farm gate, rather than being forced to spend extended periods off-island, selling at the market in Gizo, the provincial capital. This would contribute to women's economic and social empowerment, poverty reduction, reduce risk to women and children of sexual and other violence and, in the longer term, the overall development of Simbo and neighbouring islands.

As part of PLP's Action Research initiative, an Action Research Plan was prepared for the 'Change for Simbo' initiative. This Plan outlines the focus of the research and methodology for two years action research work that will both support the coalition in its activities and assess the level of positive change that occurs from individual, community and coalition leadership. The purpose of this assignment was to implement the first year of the Action Research Plan, and develop an ongoing case study of the Change for Simbo program.

*Project: Action Research with Tongan National Leadership Development Forum. Ongoing research.*

*Team Members: Dr Michael O'Keefe and Professor Helen Lee*

*Funding: Pacific Leadership Program*

The Tongan National Leadership Development Forum is a group of cross-sectoral Tongan leaders, who come together to identify and support processes of change around positive developmental leadership in Tonga. This project continues PLP2's focus on analysing the activities of the TNLDF and the role of the PLP in supporting developmental leadership in Tonga. The scope of work in PLP3 is a blend of action research and orthodox research



support. This blend is necessary due to the diversity of tasks and different emphases of the PLP and TNLDF in undertaking ongoing projects.

*Project:* Action Research of Women in Shared Decision-Making (WISDM) coalition. Ongoing research.

*Team Members:* Dr Benedicta Rousseau

*Funding:* Pacific Leadership Program

The Women in Shared Decision Making (WISDM) coalition in Vanuatu is focused on creating paths for women's participation in elected leadership roles in Vanuatu. PLP has supported the Coalition for some time. This research focuses on how the Coalition has been able to achieve its successes, and the role that PLP has played within that process. In 2015 a Baseline and Case Study were completed on the WISDM coalition, and an academic paper on the Coalition's activities was drafted. The intention now is to develop and implement a longer term Action Research Plan to support the coalition in its activities.

*Project:* Thinking and working politically in the Pacific: Commenced in 2016 completing 2016

*Team Members:* Kayli Wild, Linda Kelly and Chris Roche

*Funding:* La Trobe DRP

This study aims to describe what thinking and working politically in the Pacific looks like in practice, from the perspective of local staff of a development program - the Pacific Leadership Program- funded by a bilateral aid organisation. The study is an opportunity to gain insight in to the perspective of local staff, many of whom have been with the program over a long period of time. This in turn will provide insights into what is required for thinking and working politically in the Pacific and how local staff might be best supported.

## 2.2 Teaching and Professional Development

### *Teaching*

An important aspect of the Institute's work is educating the next generation of development practitioners. We seek to set the standard in Australia for postgraduate studies in International Development. We currently offer three postgraduate awards in International Development: Master of International Development, Graduate Diploma of International Development and a Graduate Certificate in International Development. In addition, we work with our colleagues in La Trobe's School of Psychology and Public Health to offer a double Master degree: the Master of International Development/Master of Public Health. There are currently 48 students undertaking postgraduate awards in International Development and Master of International Development/Master of Public Health. The Institute also has one PhD candidate and two Master by Research Students.

The aim of our teaching work is to offer a curriculum that reflects recent advances in our understanding of development theory and development practice, with particular focus on progressive social change in development. We teach the curriculum in an engaging way and have a strong commitment to looking after our students and in helping them to get the most out of their studies. This teaching philosophy is evident in the design and application of the core subjects we teach: Contemporary Approaches to Development, Making Social Change Happen and Field Methods for Development as well as numerous elective subjects we offer. Students are eligible to apply to undertake internships and in-depth research projects as part of their studies.

Dr Tim Thornton currently convenes the postgraduate programs. A key focus on Tim's activities in 2015 was refining and improving all processes connected with the administration and marketing of the degrees. Short clips advertising specific subjects we offer have been downloaded on You Tube over 300 times. Bit by bit the teaching programme continues to build and realise its strong potential.

We are fortunate to have the involvement of highly experienced practitioners who teach into several subjects we offer: Dr Linda Kelly and other international development professionals teach Field Methods for Development, Andrew Hewett teaches Making Social Change Happen and the Humanitarian Advisory Group teach Human Security and Development. The Institute is grateful for the efforts of colleagues across the social and health sciences at La Trobe who have also assisted us in one way or another, with particular thanks to Dr Hassan Vally and Raul Sanchez-Urribarri.

## *Professional Development*

The Institute is committed to building the skill set of professionals working towards social change. It is intended that much of the material developed for the Master of International Development program will also be adapted for professional development programs. The Australian NGO sector is a particular focus for the professional development work, but the Institute will also work with groups interested in understanding more about social change and international development, and groups keen to access the particular skill sets of Institute staff.

### *Workshop for Australia Awards scholars*

Institute Director Chris Roche and Research Fellow Gillian Fletcher, along with the Institute's founding Director, Professor Dennis Altman, ran an interactive workshop with more than 275 new and departing Colombo Plan and Australia Awards scholars in Melbourne at the end of June 2015. Participants were asked to consider what, for them, was the burning issue in international development. Sustainability was talked about by almost everyone and climate change was an issue raised by many of the Pasifika participants. Other topics included corruption, employment, peace, security, and health. A group of Muslim women debated how to negotiate the tensions between issues of gender and sexuality and local culture and tradition. Scholars from Africa and Asia discussed how to best promote South-to-South learning.

Responding to the questions raised, Dennis, Chris and Gillian discussed: the sheer complexity of international development and aid; the inevitably partial nature of all responses; the importance of paying attention to processes (including processes of engagement, evaluation, critical thinking and learning); and of paying attention to power and hierarchies of knowledge by asking questions such as whose knowledge counts, and who gets to decide?

### *Masterclass with Asia Pacific Journalism Centre (APJC)*

The APJC and World Vision Australia invited the Institute to design and deliver a three day masterclass in March as part of the APJC's International Development Journalism Fellowship. The Institute led two days of the workshop, presenting on key development issues in Australia and Cambodia, where participants were going to be undertaking a study tour as part of the program immediately after the masterclass.

The masterclass provided a unique opportunity for journalists to develop skills for reporting on the international relief and development sector, and its increasingly important role in national politics and international relations.

### *Partnership Brokers Training*

The Institute's Programs and Partnerships Manager, Yeshe Smith, in association with the Partnership Brokers Association and Julie Mundy, ran a Partnership Brokers Training course for La Trobe academic and professional staff in April.

The four-day skills and professional development training course was developed by the globally recognised Partnership Brokers Association (<http://www.partnershipbrokers.org/>), and is based on over thirty years of practice-based research. This unique course provided those working in and on partnerships with frameworks, tools, techniques and skills development to build their confidence and competence as partnership brokers.

## **2.3 Consultancies and Outreach**

The Institute conducts community outreach in many different ways. Institute staff design and lead events for partners and associates of the Institute. Staff also undertake consultancies or technical support roles with partners and other organisations, as part of their substantive roles, which contribute new knowledge and networks to the Institute. Staff attend conferences, and contribute to learning and knowledge sharing events.

### **CONSULTANCIES**

#### *Community Development and Governance in Indigenous Australia*

The Central Land Council is an Aboriginal organisation governed by a council of 90 elected Aboriginal members. In 2005 it created the Community Development (CD) Program and a dedicated Unit to implement community development projects involving Aboriginal income flowing from land-use agreements, including royalties, rent, lease and compensation payments, plus affected area payments. The unit utilises a community development

process to work with groups and communities. Linda Kelly, the Institute's co-Director, has an ongoing relationships with the CLC, and provides them with monitoring and evaluation of their community development program. For this year, particular monitoring focus was given to three project areas including the Community Lease Money project, the community pool funded in Mutitjulu and the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) funded school program.

#### *Theory of Change for the Healing Foundation*

In 2015 the Institute partnered with Social Compass to develop, for the first time, a Theory of Change for healing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation. The Theory of Change will be used to inform policy and best practice and will guide the Healing Foundation's strategic investments in healing initiatives.

#### *Theory of Change for Australian Volunteers International (AVI)*

In 2015 Linda Kelly worked with AVI to re-define AVI's development approach, incorporating a "theory of change" based on an up to date understanding of the evolving context AVI is working in, AVI's experience to date, and recent literature.

#### *The mid-term review of the DFAT/ACFID Partnership*

The Institute's Programs and Partnerships Manager, Yeshe Smith, conducted the mid-term review of the partnership in place between DFAT, and the Australian Council for International Development between August and October. The review provided analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing partnerships, and proposals for the next phase of the partnership.

#### *Partnering skills training for staff of the Pacific Leadership Program*

Yeshe Smith provided partnering skills training and technical support on partnership process design to the staff of the Pacific Leadership Program, in August. Staff from Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and Vanuatu attended the training.

#### *Ongoing research management support to the Pacific Leadership Program*

Aidan Craney, a PhD candidate at La Trobe, is working with the Institute to provide ongoing support and mentoring to PLP staff on the management of PLP's research portfolio.

#### *Partnership Assessment for the West Wimmera Health Alliance*

Yeshe Smith worked with Catherine Morley (CEO, Rural NorthWest Health) and Jane Farmer (PVC Research, College of SHE), to design a consultation process with key public health stakeholders in Warracknabeal Shire, undertake consultations, and facilitate a partnership discussion.

## **WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES**

#### *Seminars at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

Chris Roche and Yeshe Smith ran seminars for staff at the Department of Foreign Affairs and trade in the middle of the year. Yeshe presented on partnership processes in international development programs, and Chris presented on the implications of the new Sustainable Development Goals for programming in international development.

#### *Thinking and Working Politically Community of Practice*

Chris Roche, Gillian Fletcher and Tait Brimacombe attended a Thinking and Working Politically Community of Practice (TWP CoP) meeting in Bangkok in June. The TWP CoP comprises senior officials from major development donors and leading practitioners and researchers, and have been meeting since 2013 with the aim of promoting TWP in development, and advocating for fundamental changes to the way development assistance is conceived and implemented. The Bangkok meeting in June, included a specific discussion on the intersections of TWP and gender, with an exploration of how understandings of gender and power could inform TWP concepts and approaches.

#### *DLP Political Settlements Workshop*

Chris Roche, Gillian Fletcher and Tait Brimacombe attended a DLP Political Settlements Workshop in Bangkok in June. This one-day workshop brought together researchers, policy-makers and practitioners working in the area of 'political settlements' – a term used to articulate the need to understand the politics and institutional dynamics

that are at the centre of currently thinking and practice in international development. This workshop centred on discussion of how political settlements can help understand processes of state formation, patterns of inclusion and exclusion and prospects for transformation.

#### *Conference host: C4D approaches in the Australian NGO sector & academic: knowledge sharing and networking for improved practice*

Institute Research Fellow, Tait Brimacombe, co-hosted this C4D workshop in May alongside UNSW in the lead up to the ACFID University Network Conference. The event was attended by academics and development practitioners interested in C4D to share their experiences, lessons learned and recommendations that could contribute to improved practice.

#### *ACFID University Network Conference*

Institute staff attended the ACFID University Network Conference at Monash in May. Chris Roche, Annette Madvig and Linda Kelly ran sessions at the Conference, including a session on the 'Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development' with Irene Guijt, 4 June 2015. Gillian Fletcher (Institute Research Fellow) facilitated a workshop session on the intersections between gender and sexuality in development. The session was co-hosted by Gillian and colleagues from La Trobe University, the Institute of Development Studies, UK, and research partners from two South East Asian non-governmental organisations. Gillian was also a member of the conference organising committee.

#### *ACFID Sexual Rights in Development Community of Practice meeting*

Gillian Fletcher and Dennis Altman co-convened this October meeting, which was titled: "Gender & sexuality: how do we walk the SDGs talk?" The meeting brought together, under Chatham House rules, ACFID members and Australian civil society representatives to: discuss gender, sexuality, and the interconnections between the two; consider what is being done now, and what might be done better, and develop an action plan for moving forward in this area, in the light of the SDGs' promise of 'no one left behind' (including identification of possible areas for collaboration between Australian civil society and the aid sector).

#### *ACFID National Conference*

Chris Roche and Annette Madvig designed and facilitated a workshop at ACFID National Conference on SDGs and Transformational Development, research funded by the DRP, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October.

#### *ACFID Workshop for NGO leaders and academics*

In June, Chris Roche and Linda Kelly designed and facilitated a workshop for the Australian Council International Development (ACFID) on 'Changing the world and Changing Ourselves' about the Future of the Sector, based on a paper prepared for the workshop on Drivers of Change for NGO sector.

#### *Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Melanesia*

Tait Brimacombe attended and presented at the inaugural two-day 'ICTs in Melanesia' workshop in April, hosted by the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia (SSGM) Program at ANU. This workshop provided a forum for presenters to consider existing debates regarding the impact of ICTs, and relevant research methods. This workshop served as the basis for the establishment of a cross-disciplinary community of practice, concerning the political and social impacts of new ICTs in Melanesia, with a view to continued engagement.

#### *Australasian Aid Conference*

Yeshe Smith attended the Australasian Aid Conference at the Crawford School, ANU, which is a key annual event for academics, consultants and practitioners to network and share knowledge.

#### *State of the Pacific Conference*

Tait Brimacombe attended the State of the Pacific Conference in September. State of the Pacific is an annual conference hosted by the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia (SSGM) Program at the Australian National University (ANU). This year's conference focussed on the theme 'Adaptations and Accommodations' and explored the ways in which Pacific societies are responding to internal and external pressures, and evolving as a result of such pressures. The conference also focused on the 40th anniversary of Papua New Guinea's Independence, with a number of headline and keynote presentations focussing in this milestone.

#### *Australian Anthropological Society Conference*

Tait Brimacombe attended the Australian Anthropology Society (AAS) Annual Conference in December, hosted by the University of Melbourne. The 2015 Conference – ‘Moral Horizons’ – focussed on dialogue around issues of moralities in a range of diverse ethnographic settings, delivered across 44 thematic panels.

#### *Book Launch: 'The Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development: Playing the Game to Change the Rules'*

In November 2015 the Institute launched the book “The Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development: Playing the Game to Change the Rules.” The book was co-edited by Chris Roche. The launch included some reflections on the book from Duncan Green of Oxfam Great Britain, and Dennis Altman Professorial Fellow in Human Security at La Trobe University.

## 2.4 Forming partnerships, relationships and networks

The Institute has continued to develop long-term partnerships with external organisations, notably the Developmental Leadership Program, Pacific Leadership Program, Central Land Council, and the Australian Council for International Development. These partnerships seek to combine resources, develop research outputs, and share ideas to improve development practice.

The Institute has also networked with La Trobe academics who are skilled and interested in action research. We continue to develop relationships with relevant departments within the University to help facilitate our ongoing partnerships, both internally and externally.

The Institute also built external networks with individual practitioners, consultants and managers. Practitioners and policy makers across Australia, the Pacific and internationally were consulted in the development of our strategy, priorities and research agenda. The Institute will continue the process of engaging these networks in peer review and feedback on our work, and in the preparation of submissions and public policy messages.

#### *New Appointments*

In 2015, Gillian Fletcher became co-chair of the ACFID Community of Practice group ‘Sexual Rights in Development’ (the COP was established to help for staff from ACFID Member agencies to share, learn and collaborate), joined the Editorial Board of Culture, Health and Sexuality Journal, and took up a post on the Australian Council for International Development University Network Committee, which has been renamed the Research for Development Impact Network. Chris Roche became a member of the Strategic and Scientific Advisory Committee of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society.

## 3. OUR OPERATIONS

The Institute is a not-for-profit, collaborative and university-wide initiative, located within the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce at La Trobe University. We work as a broker of relationships between academics in the university and development practitioners to undertake a range of projects across applied research, professional consulting services, professional development and training, and public policy engagement. This approach serves the interests of potential clients and donors by bringing together multidisciplinary teams combining practical and theoretical perspectives.

### 3.1 Resourcing and financing

The Institute’s funding base comprises of a mix of La Trobe University operational and research funding, external research and grant funding, and consulting income. Table A at the end of this report summarises the Institute’s revenue for 2015. Table B summarizes research and commercial revenue for the Institute in the 2015 financial year



## 3.2 Advisory Board and Executive Committee

The governance of the Institute comprises of an Advisory Board and Executive Committee with nominated La Trobe University delegates and external independent members. In 2015, the Advisory Board met in March. The Board approved the 2014 Annual report and commended the Institute on its progress. The meeting included an important discussion on the role that the Institute might seek to play on implementing public policy.

The Advisory Board includes: Professor Nick Bisley, Professor Gary Dowsett, Professor Jane Farmer, and Dr Eve Merton as La Trobe University appointments; Mr Mark Clisby (formerly Director of Research Services at La Trobe University); Mr Jeremy Hobbs (formerly Executive Director for Oxfam International Secretariat); and the Institute Director, Chris Roche.

An interim Executive Committee provided oversight of the Disciplinary Research Program. This committee comprises of Dr Daniel Bray, Dr Celia McMichael, Dr Michael O'Keefe, Dr Brooke Wilmsen, and Chris Roche, all from La Trobe University.

## 3.3 The Institute Team

Institute staff for 2015 included:

Institute Director: Ass/Prof Chris Roche

Co-Director: Dr Linda Kelly

Deputy Director: Dr Michael O'Keefe

Deputy Director: Dr Celia McMichael

Teaching Associate: Dr Tim Thornton

Research Fellow: Dr Gillian Fletcher

Research Fellow: Tait Brimacombe

Programs and Partnerships Manager: Yeshe Smith

Amanda Robertson: Senior Advisor, Digital Media & Business Support

Ann Pearson: Research, Consulting and Contracts

In 2015 the Institute said good bye to Thu-Trang Tran, Anna Altmann, and Annette Madvig. All three women made significant contributions to the Institute, and we wish them well in the next phase of their lives. In early 2015 we were joined by the two Institute DLP Research Fellows, Dr Gillian Fletcher and Tait Brimacombe. Both Gillian and Tait are collaborating with the Developmental Leadership Program research group. We also welcomed a new professional staff member, Amanda Robertson, who is building the Institute's strength in both communications and financial management. Towards the end of the year, a member of the La Trobe Research Services Consulting and Contracts team, Ann Pearson, was seconded to the Institute for two days a week. Ann is building the Institute's capacity to effectively manage an ever increasing load of research and consultancy contracts. Madeleine Leftwich joined the Institute as an intern in the last quarter of 2015.

## 4. WHAT'S NEXT?

The Institute will continue to grow in 2016. We have put in bids for a number of different pieces of research and consultancy work. If the bids are successful, these projects will continue to build opportunities for La Trobe and the Institute to work closely with practitioners to understand processes of social change, and contribute to better practice. The Institute's offerings and activities in both professional development and outreach work will expand in 2015.

Our ongoing research partnership with the Developmental Leadership Program will continue in 2016, and the Institute will host the international conference of the DLP group in February 2016. The research partnership with the Pacific Leadership Program will also continue, and 2016 will be an important year for communicating and applying the body of research which PLP and the Institute have been working on together.

In 2016 we will also make a concerted effort to expand the Institute's portfolio of work with Australian NGOs. The Institute's focus on the practice of social change, and understanding how practitioners are making social change happen, will be deepened through better engagement with the Australian NGO sector.

It is anticipated that the number of students undertaking the Master of International Development will increase in 2016. The Institute will be bringing in more senior professionals to bolster the teaching ranks for the MID in 2016. The Institute is also engaging with La Trobe around support for the activities of the Institute, which we expect will generate some changes in 2016.

## 5. MEET OUR PEOPLE

### *Founding Director – Dennis Altman*

Dennis is a Professorial Fellow in the Institute for Human Security at La Trobe University in Melbourne. He is a writer and academic who first came to attention with the publication of his book *Homosexual: Oppression & Liberation* in 1972. This book was the first serious analysis to emerge from the gay liberation movement, and was published in seven countries. Since then Altman has written thirteen books, exploring sexuality, politics and their inter-relationship in Australia, the United States and now globally. These include *The Homosexualization of America; AIDS and the New Puritanism; Rehearsals for Change; Gore Vidal's America and Fifty First State?*, as well as a novel (*The Comfort of Men*) and memoirs (*Defying Gravity*).



*Queer Wars* is Dennis Altman's most recent publication. It argues that western activism must listen carefully and support local movements, rather than trumpet a universal 'gay rights agenda' that risks endangering those it seeks to empower.

### *Who or what inspires you to work in Development?*

I came into development via the HIV world. I am deeply inspired by the gay activists that I've met working in countries such as Uganda, Russia or the Middle East who face a continued threat of harassment, torture and death in their work.

### *Research Fellow – Dr Gillian Fletcher*

#### *What's your background?*

I often describe myself as a mongrel, in that I have a mixed pedigree; my first training is as a journalist, my first degree is in photography, my Master's is in applied linguistics and my PhD is a health science one!

#### *Who or what inspires you to work in Development?*

It sounds cheesy, but my greatest inspiration has always come from the communities of people I have been lucky enough to work with: particularly civil society activists, whose resilience and capacity is really astounding. We need to learn so much more from them.



### *Research Fellow – Tait Brimacombe*

#### *What's your background?*

Prior to coming to the Institute, I was undertaking my PhD in the Department of Anthropology and Development Studies at the University of Adelaide. As part of this research I was investigating the intersection of communication for development and gender in the Pacific, particularly the translation and remediation of global gender and development discourse across various communication platforms.



### *Who or what inspires you to work in Development?*

My research is inspired by the desire to constantly challenge, interrogate and shift Australia's aid and development policy, and provide spaces within which community-based organisations can reflect upon their work and highlight their achievements.

## 6. Publications

### Academic and Professional Publications

Brimacombe, T. & Bau, V. (2015) Report of Proceedings: Communication for Development Approaches in the Australian NGO Sector and Academia. June 5, 2015.

Fletcher, G. (2015) Addressing Gender in Impact Evaluation: What Should be Considered? Methods Lab publication. ODI/DFAT/Better Evaluation.

Fletcher, G. (2015) From Principles to Practice: A Tool to Help Identify and Question Assumptions that Lie Behind Work with MSM and Transgender People. Bangkok, Thailand: APCOM.

Fletcher, G. (2015) Gender, Sexuality and Inequality. Developmental Leadership Program Concept Brief.

Fletcher, G. (2015) The knowledge gap: examining the rhetoric and implementation of peer education for HIV prevention in Myanmar. *Sex Education*, 15(4):1-14.

Roche C. (2015) DLP's Theory of Change and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework. October 2015.

Roche C. & Kelly, L. (2015) Theory of Change and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Healing Foundation. Social Compass.

Roche, C. & Kelly, L. (2015) Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Proposal Papers: support to women's collective action and monitoring and evaluation processes. DFAT.

Roche C. with. Eyben, R. I. Guijt, I. & Shutt, C. (eds.) (2015) *The Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development: Playing the game to change the rules?* Practical Action Publishing.

Roche, C. (2015) *The Politics of Juggling Multiple Accountability Disorder*. In R. Eyben, I. Guijt, C. Roche & C. Shutt (eds.) *The Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development: Playing the game to change the rules?* Practical Action Publishing.

Thornton, T. (2015) 'The Changing Face of Mainstream Economics?' *Journal of Australian Political Economy*, Winter.

### Workshop and Conference Presentations

Brimacombe, T. (2015) ICTs in Melanesia: Building a Research Community, April 2015.

Brimacombe, T. (2015) Communication for Development Approaches for the Australian NGO Sector and Academia, 3 June 2015.

Fletcher, G. Facilitator and co-convenor, Gender & sexuality: how do we walk the SDGs talk? ACFID/International Development Gender and Sexuality Community of Practice.

Fletcher, G. (2015) 'If the herd of cows splits up, the tiger can eat them': using a diversity and values framework to promote equality and social justice in Myanmar. Australian Myanmar Institute conference Myanmar and the Sustainable Development, 10- 12 July 2015, Yangon, Myanmar.

Fletcher, G. (2015) Gender, sexuality and disadvantage: Intimately entwined, but perpetually divorced within international development?. ACFID University Network Conference, June 4-5, 2015, Monash University, Melbourne.

Fletcher G. (2015) Let's Talk: Gender and sexual diversity. Why should development agencies care?. Moderated panel discussion hosted by ACFID, 3 June 2015.

Roche, C. (2015) Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development. ACFID University Network Conference, 4 June 2015.

Roche, C. (2015) Developmental Leadership Workshops. DFAT Australia Awards scheme for returning scholars, 2 June and 29 June 2015.

Roche, C. (2015) Development Masterclass. Asia Pacific Journalism Centre, March 2015.

Roche, C. (2015) Making Change Happen: Workshop with Duncan Green, 25 November 2015.

Roche, C. (2015) Designed and facilitated workshop at ACFID National Conference on SDGs and Transformational Development, research funded by La Trobe, 15 October 2015

Roche, C. (2015) Presentation to the DFAT Civil Society Network on 'Civil Society and Transformation in the world of the Sustainable Development Goals', 6 October 2015

Roche, C. and Kelly, L. (2015) Designed and Facilitated a workshop for the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID) on 'Changing the world and Changing Ourselves', report produced based on the workshop and a paper prepared for the workshop on Drivers of Change for NGO sector based in part on DLP research, 3 June 2015

Roche, C. (2015) Panellist on the final plenary session on 'Creating a healthy environment for Australian aid in times of inequality and austerity' at the ACFID-University Network conference on the 'Politics of Evidence and Results in International Development', 4 June 2015

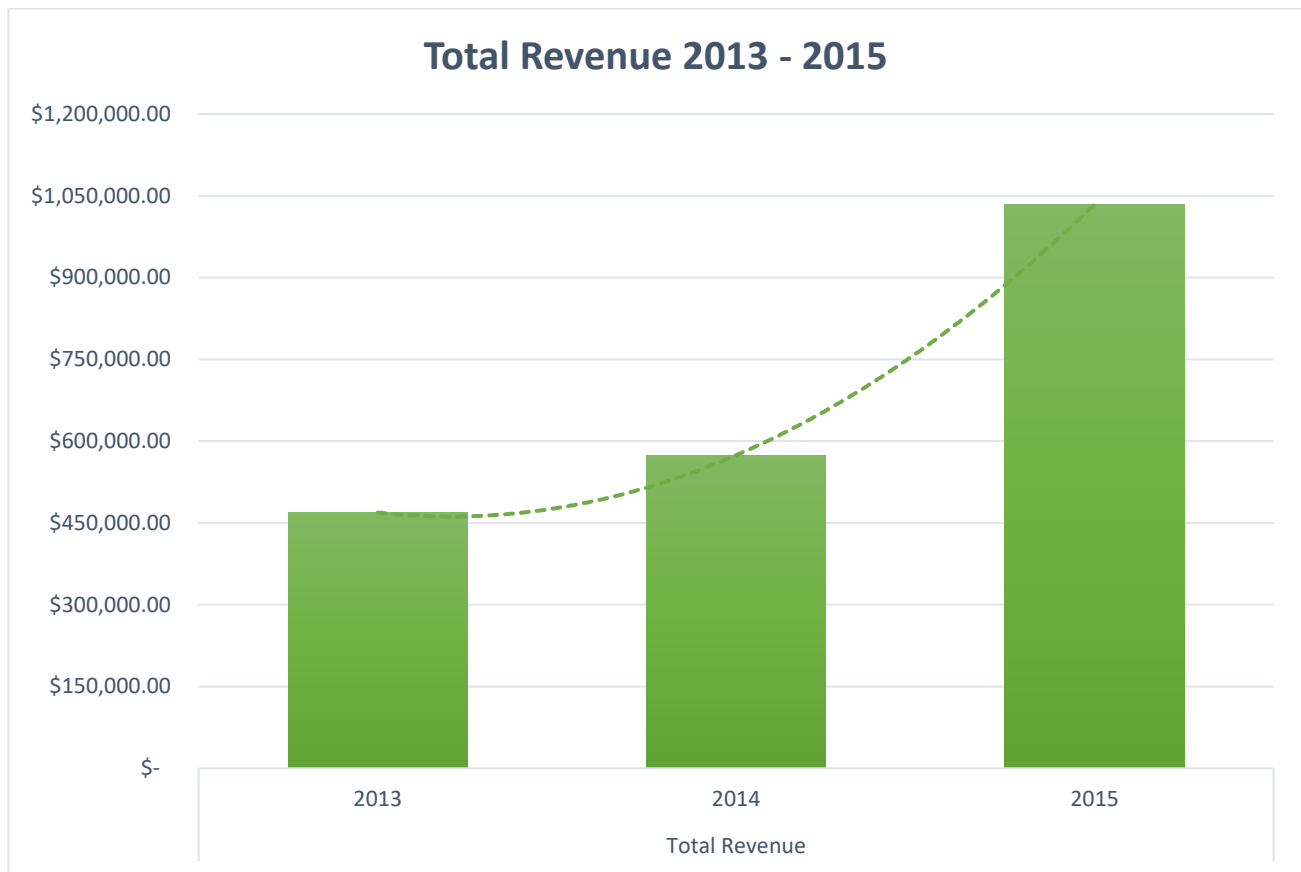
## 7. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

*Table A: Summary Accounts*

Table A summarizes the revenue for the Institute from 2013 to 2015.

Revenue Type	Total Revenue		
	2013	2014	2015
Research Revenue (external)*	\$103,000	\$190,691	\$ 696,525.52
Commercial Revenue (external)*	\$106,000	\$16,300	\$ 39,424.78
Support from Vice Chancellor's Office (La Trobe)	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$ -
Strategic Research Initiative (La Trobe)	\$200,136	\$207,192	\$ 197,759
Disciplinary Research Program (La Trobe)		\$100,000	\$ 100,000
Total	<b>\$469,136</b>	<b>\$576,197</b>	<b>\$ 1,033,709.30</b>

\*Projects are shown in Table B below. NB This revenue does not include revenue earned by The University for Masters of International Development students.



*Table B: Research and Commercial Project Revenue*

Table B summarizes research and commercial revenue for the Institute in the 2015 financial year.

Funder/Project	Status	Funders	Revenue (actual)
<b><u>La Trobe University</u></b>			
Strategic Research Initiative 2015	Ongoing	La Trobe University	\$197,759
Disciplinary Research Program 2015	Ongoing	La Trobe University	\$100,000
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$297,759</b>
<b><u>Australian Government</u></b>			
Pacific Leadership Program (Action Research, and Monitoring & Evaluation support)	Phase 3 ongoing	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (via Cardno Emerging Markets Pty Ltd)	\$118,649
Developmental Leadership Program	Ongoing	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (via the University of Birmingham) D9	\$480,725
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$599,374</b>
<b><u>Development Agencies and NGOs</u></b>			
Understanding behaviour change in WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) projects in Nepal	Completed	La Trobe University (Building Health Communities Research Funding Area), Australian Red Cross (through the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Civil Society, Water Sanitation and Hygiene Fund)	\$9,091
Sustainable Development Goals	Completed	Oxfam, Caritas, ActionAid	\$25,000
Design Support to Centre of Democratic Institution	Completed	Coffey International	\$26,450
Theory of Change for Healing	Completed	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Healing Foundation via Social Compass	\$18,000
Evaluations of Central Land Council's Community Development and Governance Program	Completed	DFHS and Community Services	\$18,611
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$97,152</b>
<b><u>Commercial/Funding</u></b>			
Partnership Review for Warracnabeal Health Services	Completed	Rural Northwest Health	\$2,700
Delivery of Masterclass for Journalists	Completed	Institute	\$4,000
Co-design and delivery of the 'Change the World and Changing Ourselves' Workshop	Completed	Australian Council for International Development	\$3,878
Partnership and technical Support for PLP	Completed	PLP	\$6,508
Review of DFAT/ACFID partnerships	Completed	DFAT	\$22,338
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$39,424</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,033,709</b>

### Revenue From All Sources - 2013-2015

