



Australian
National
University

Mongolia
Institute

ANU Mongolia Institute Update and Symposium 2024

Program booklet

14-15 November

The Update is organised by the ANU Mongolia Institute, the only dedicated hub for Mongolian studies in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Mongolia Update is hosted by the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University, supported by the Embassy of Mongolia and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra.



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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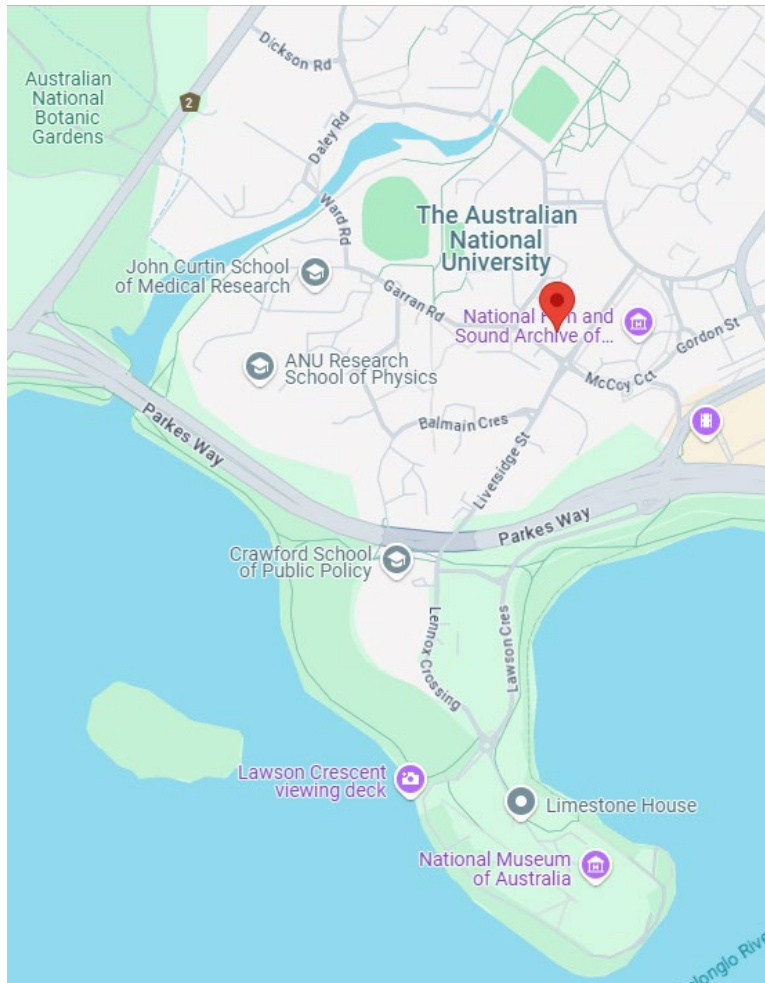
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General information

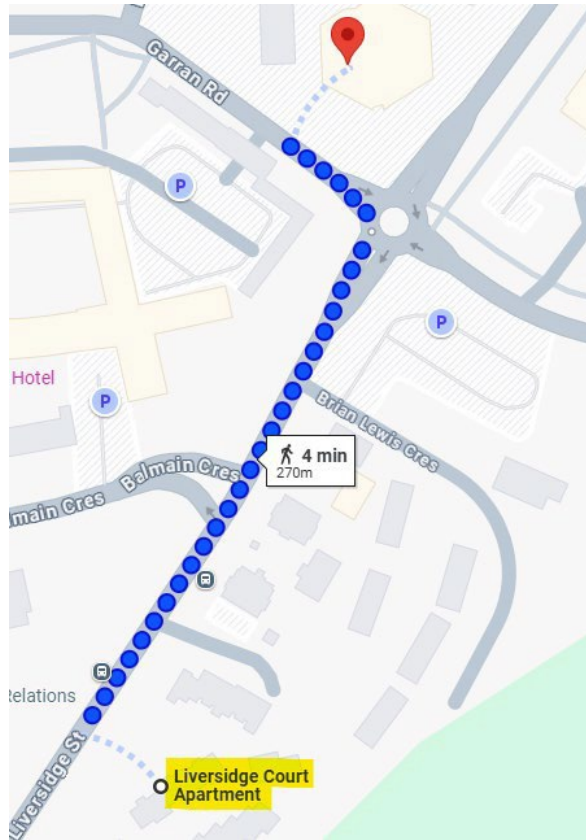
Location

Hedley Bull Building
130 Garran Road, ANU
Acton ACT 2601

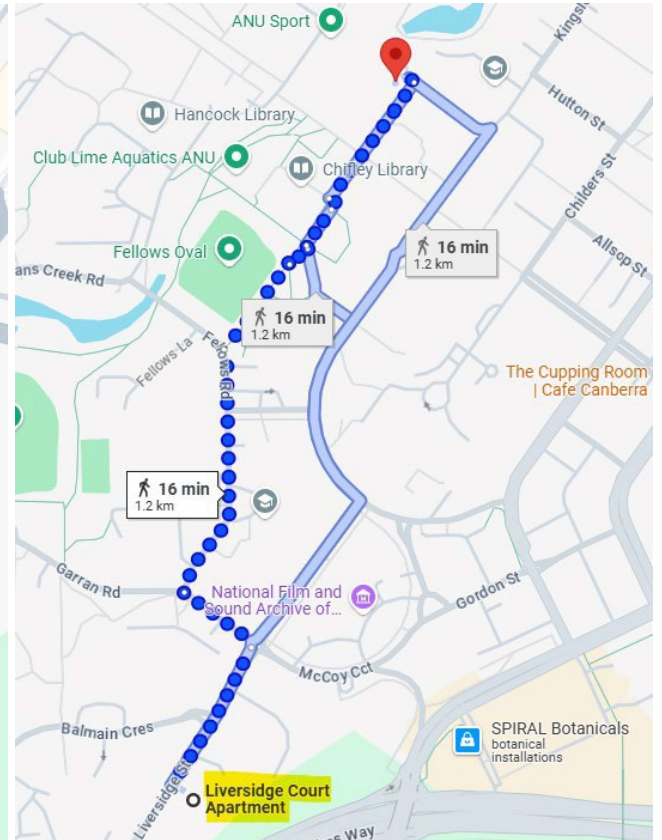


Important Maps

ANU Apartments to Hedley Bull



ANU Apartments to Kambri



Getting around

The Mongolia Update venue is within 4 min walking distance from the ANU Apartments, 16 min to the ANU Kambri precinct (to access our modern cafés and eateries on-campus), and 25 min walking distance to the Canberra Centre.

ANU Apartments to Canberra Centre

Bus 53 has a direct route from ANU Apartments to the city. The bus stop is right next to the apartments (Liversidge St before Balmain Cr #4628). You can take the bus to City Interchange Platform 8, the Canberra Centre is a 3 minutes' walk from there.

Taxi

ACT Cabs is the local taxi service in Canberra. To book a taxi, call (02) 6280 0077.

Alternatively, you can use ride-hailing services such as Uber or Didi.

Dining options

Below are some popular dining options **on-campus** in the Kambri precinct:

- Urban by Asian Tiger (opens until 9pm) – Chinese
- Char-Char (opens until 7pm) – Thai
- Broger (opens until 9pm) – Fast food
- Kebaba (opens until 9pm) – Turkish

Below are some popular dining options **near the campus** in city:

- CBD Dumpling House (5-10pm) - Chinese, 26 Narellan St
- The Golden Drum (5-9pm) - Chinese, 14 Childers St
- Ming's Pantry Malaysian Street Food (5-9pm) - Malaysian, 45 West Row
- 1919 Lanzhou Beef Noodle (10am-9pm) - Chinese, 148 Bunda St
- B-One (12pm-12.30am) – Korean, 16 West Row
- The Kathmandu Momo House (5-9.30pm) - Nepalese, 24 West Row

The Palace Electric Cinemas and the iconic Močan & Green Grout Café are also a short 10 min walk from your apartment if you want to enjoy international and arthouse films or want to sip on one of the best fair-trade coffees that Canberra has to offer.

Wi-Fi details

For the Update and the Symposium at Hedley Bull, please connect to the following Wi-Fi:

- **Wi-Fi:** ANU-Secure2
- **Username:** Mongolia_Update_2024
- **Password:** ANU2601!

Program

Update: Thursday 14 November,

All sessions: Lecture Theatre 1 (HB1), 130 Garran Road

TIME	PROGRAM
9.15am	Two songs performed by Bukhu Ganburged on Morin Khuur
9.30am	Welcome and opening remarks Professor Helen Sullivan, Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific Ambassador Davaasuren Damdinsuren, Embassy of Mongolia for Australia and New Zealand, Canberra Mr David Vosen, former Ambassador to Mongolia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra
10.00am	Keynote Address Dr Undraa Agvaanluvsan, Member of Parliament of Mongolia, Green Building Council of Mongolia, PhD nuclear physicist <i>Trends of the urban landscape in Mongolia: fighting pollution and going green</i> Discussant: Associate Professor Natasha Fijn (ANU)
11.00am	Morning tea
11.30am	Panel 1 Mr Bukhchuluun Ganburged (Bukhu), horse-head fiddle musician <i>Exploring the aural-environmental dimensions of sounds generated by traditional Mongolian instruments and harmonic overtone vocal techniques</i> Dr Byambajav Dalaibuyan, University of Queensland <i>Mining and the environment: drivers of local level conflicts and cooperation in Mongolia</i> Discussant: Professor Li Narangoa (ANU)
12.30pm	Buffet lunch with music and dance performance Musicians: Bardavaa Chinbat and Maralmaa Davaadorj Dance: Maralgoo Chinguunjav
2.00pm	Panel 2 Dr Undargaa Sandagsuren, Visiting Fellow, Australian National University <i>Pastoral governance and climate extremes</i> Professor Battogtokh Javzandolgor, National University of Mongolia <i>International legal regulations for environmental protection of Mongolia</i> Dr Ariunaa Shajinbat and Khongorzul Boldbaatar, Institute of Education and Training, Mongolia <i>Shifts in the philosophy of Mongolian education and it's alignment with transformative education principles</i> Discussant: Associate Professor Qimuge (Inner Mongolia University)
3.30pm	Afternoon tea
4.00pm	Panel 3 Dr Namuun Ganbat, Photon Energy Group, Sydney <i>Contaminants of emerging concern: the environmental legacy of PFAS and insights into contamination, persistence and remediation</i> Mr Naranbadrakh Batkhoo, Coordinator, Horse Heaven NGO, Ulaanbaatar <i>Mongolia's culture of peace in connection with the horse</i> <i>Documentary: 360° Reportage. Mongelei: De Pferderreter (2024, 30 mins)</i> Discussant: Dr Uchralt Otode (ANU)
5.30pm	END OF UPDATE
6.00pm	Dinner (speakers & invited guests only) Meet at ANU Liversidge Apartments to leave together

Symposium: Friday 15 November

All sessions: Lecture Theatre 2 (HB2), 130 Garran Road & Online on Zoom

TIME	PROGRAM
9.00am	Keynote Address Assistant Professor Takahiro Tomita, Kobe University, Japan <i>Severe winter disasters (dzud) between the socialist era and the present: what can we learn from past disasters?</i> Dr William Taylor, University of Colorado, Boulder <i>Melting mountain ice, cultural heritage, and pastoral lifeways in Mongolia, past and present</i> Discussant: Associate Professor Natasha Fijn (ANU)
10.30am	<i>Morning tea</i>
11.00am	Panel 1 Associate Professor Byambabaatar Ichinkhorloo, National University of Mongolia <i>Zud and Khorshoo: herders perspectives and political dimensions</i> Dr Uchralt Otede, Australian National University <i>Challenges of citizen participation in addressing local environmental issues in Inner Mongolia and Mongolia</i> Saren Tuoya, Inner Mongolia University <i>The relationship between herders and water in drought: A case study of G Soum in Eastern Inner Mongolia</i> Discussant: Professor Li Narangoa (ANU)
12.30pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30pm	Panel 2 Dr Rebekah Plueckhahn and NGO colleagues in Mongolia, University of Melbourne <i>Mapping resident's experiences of climatic weather events and perceptions of climate change in Ulaanbaatar</i> Byambagerel Suren, National University of Mongolia <i>What can the history of Mongolian forest fires teach us?</i> Associate Professor Natasha Fijn, Australian National University <i>A multispecies anthropological approach to influenza in Mongolia</i> Discussant: Undargaa Sandagsuren (ANU)
3.30pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>
4.00pm	END OF SYMPOSIUM

Update Speakers

Welcome

Ambassador Davaasuren Damdinsuren
Ambassador of Mongolia to Australia

His Excellency Davaasuren Damdinsuren was appointed as Ambassador of Mongolia to Australia and New Zealand in 2021. He has also had diplomatic postings in Seoul and Washington DC. He has been State Secretary and Ambassador at Large within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Mongolia. Earlier he studied in Moscow, Seoul, Hawaii and Singapore.

Mr David Vosen
Former Ambassador of Australia to Mongolia

Mr David Vosen is Assistant Secretary within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade within the Australian government in Canberra. He is a former Australian Ambassador to Mongolia and is an Advisory Board Member for the Mongolia Institute and has an MPA from the ANU.

Trends of the urban landscape in Mongolia: fighting pollution and going green

Dr Undraa Agvaanluvsan
Member of Parliament of Mongolia

Dr. Undraa Agvaanluvsan, a PhD physicist, is a member of the State Great Khural, a Member of Parliament of Mongolia. She has served as the President of the Mongolian Green Building Council (GBC). As president she led the development of a national green building rating system of Mongolia. She has been a Member of Parliament previously (2016-2020) and served as Chair of the Sustainable Development Subcommittee. She has been Ambassador-at-large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and Scientific Secretary of the Institute for Strategic Studies of the National Security Council. Dr. Agvaanluvsan was previously researcher at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Science Fellow at Stanford University in the USA.

Exploring the aural-environmental dimensions of sounds generated by traditional Mongolian instruments and harmonic overtone vocal techniques

Bukhchuluun Ganburged
Horse-head fiddle musician

Bukhchuluun Ganburged (Bukhu) is an ARIA nominated Mongolian-Australian musician, singer and composer, based in Sydney since 2009. He was granted a prestigious Distinguished Talent Visa by the Australian government to come to Australia as an internationally recognised artist with exceptional and outstanding contributions to the arts. Bukhu combines virtuosic horse-head fiddle (*morin khuur*) and harmonic overtone throat singing (*khuumii*) skills to transmit the harmony of nomadic Mongolian and shamanic culture.

Mining and the environment: drivers of local level conflicts and cooperation in Mongolia

Dr Byambajav Dalaibuyan
University of Queensland

Dr Byambajav Dalaibuyan has over ten years' experience in applied social research and has experience with both Australian and international mining sectors, particularly in areas of social performance, social and human rights impact assessment, and Local Level Agreements. Byambajav first worked for CSR at the University of Queensland between 2013-2016 as Postdoctoral Research Fellow and as a Research Fellow at Tohoku University in Japan in 2017-2019.

Pastoral governance and climate extremes

Dr Undargaa Sandagsuren
Australian National University

Dr Sandagsuren is a political ecologist. Her current research is focusing on pastoral governance institutions regarding land tenure, livestock markets and labour migration. Since 2000, Undargaa has been directly involved in international development and research projects on pastoralism, protected areas and community-based natural resource management in Mongolia. She obtained her PhD degree from the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU and is currently a visiting scholar at the Mongolia Institute.

International legal regulations for environmental protection of Mongolia

Professor Battogtokh Javzandolgor
National University of Mongolia

Professor Javzandolgor was dean of the School of International Relations and Public Administration at the National University of Mongolia. Over 24 years, she has worked as a professor and chairperson of the International Relations Department. She has published more than thirty academic articles in leading international and Mongolian research journals on issues such as international law, international cooperation, and analysis of international agreements signed by Mongolia.

Shifts in the philosophy of Mongolian education and its alignment with transformative education principles

Dr Ariunaa Shajinbat and Khongorzul Boldbaatar
Institute of Education and Training, Mongolia

Professor Shajinbat is a member of the Junior Assembly of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and a board member at the Institute of Education and Training (IET Mongolia). She completed her Doctor of Science in Philosophy at the Russian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Ariunaa has extensive experience working in Mongolia's higher education sector. She has held several leading roles at the National University of Mongolia, the Mongolian National University of Education, the University of the Humanities, and the Mongolian State Conservatory.

Khongorzul Boldbaatar is administrator and educator at the Institute of Education and Training (IET). Khongorzul completed her bachelor's degree in international relations at the University of the Humanities. She worked under the Australia Awards Scholarship Mongolia Program at IET from 2012-2014 and 2018-2021. She has collaborated with young Australian volunteers, building IET's communication capabilities, while working collaboratively on IET's Literacy Projects, encouraging parents and teachers in disadvantaged districts to support children's literacy development.

Contaminants of emerging concern: the environmental legacy of PFAS and insights into contamination, persistence and remediation

Dr Namuun Ganbat
Photon Energy Group, Sydney

Dr Ganbat holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering with expertise in developing in-situ technologies for PFAS soil remediation. She is currently a Technical Specialist in environmental remediation at Photon Water, part of the Photon Energy Group. Namuun's work centres on innovative strategies to mitigate PFAS contamination. Drawing on a robust research background, she also consults on soil and groundwater remediation for sites contaminated with organic pollutants and heavy metals.

Mongolia's culture of peace in connection with the horse

Naranbadrakh Batkhuu
Horse Heaven NGO

For the past five years, Naranbadrakh has worked to protect horses in Mongolia, urging the government to implement policies that revive a traditional bond with them. He has rescued over 90 horses from slaughterhouses, offering them to people to ride and care for. Naranbadrakh has seen how horses transform people's mental and physical well-being, express unconditional love and respect for all life.

Symposium Speakers

Severe winter disasters (*dzud*) between the socialist era and the present: what can we learn from past disasters?

Assistant Professor Takahiro Tomita
Kobe University

Takahiro Tomita's research focus is on how socioeconomic and environmental changes since the mid-20th century have affected human–environment relations in Mongolia. He is currently leading the JSPS grant-in-aid for scientific research project on 'A Study on the Industrialization of Pastoralism and Natural Disaster in Socialist Mongolia' (2022-2024). A recent article is on 'Dzud and the industrialization of pastoralism in socialist Mongolia,' *Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies* (2021).

Melting mountain ice, cultural heritage, and pastoral lifeways in Mongolia, past and present

Dr William Taylor
University of Colorado, Boulder

Dr Taylor's work explores the domestication of the horse and the ancient relationships between people and animals through archaeozoology, emerging technologies, and glacial archaeology. He has ongoing field projects in Mongolia and the Steppes of Central Asia, on the Great Plains and the American Southwest. He also conducts museum collections research in China, Australia, and South America. He is the author of *Hoof Beats: How Horses Shaped Human History* (2024).

Zud and *Khorshoo*: herders perspectives and political dimensions

Associate Professor Byambabaatar Ichinkhorloo
National University of Mongolia

Byambabaatar Ichinkhorloo is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology and Academic Secretary at the Institute for Mongolian Studies, National University of Mongolia. He was Director of the International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Cultures under the auspices of UNESCO (2021-2023) and a senior lecturer at the Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich (2019-2021) and co-investigator of the 'Gobi Framework' research project funded by GCRF. He has studied how people make a living in Mongolia since 1990. His earlier research focused on social networks, pastoralism, and state policies. He now studies social transformation, mining impacts, the commons and cooperation.

Challenges of citizen participation in addressing local environmental issues in Inner Mongolia and Mongolia

Dr Uchralt Otede
Australian National University

Dr Uchralt Otede has completed two PhD's, one in Japan, the other in Australia at the ANU. He teaches Japanese at the Diplomatic Academy, at DFAT. He is also a member of staff at the Mongolia Institute, ANU. He joined the ARC Laureate Project 'Informal Life Politics in Northeast Asia' as a PhD researcher at the ANU. A recent upcoming publication is: 'Localising the Environmental Rights: A Case Study of An Environmental NPO in Mongolia' in *Inner Asia* journal (forthcoming, 2025).

ANU Mongolia Institute

The relationship between herders and water in drought: A case study of G Soum in Eastern Inner Mongolia

Saren Tuoya

Inner Mongolia University

Saren Tuoya is currently studying for her PhD in ethnology on human-water relationship with drought in pastoral Inner Mongolia. She also has a Master of Law in Ethnology. With Professor Brenjirigala, she has carried out community research projects and surveys on grazing and carbon goals in pastoral areas.

Mapping resident's experiences of climatic weather events and perceptions of climate change in Ulaanbaatar

Dr Rebekah Plueckhahn and NGO colleague in Mongolia

University of Melbourne

Dr Rebekah Plueckhahn is an anthropologist, examining the lived experiences of urban transformation and expansion. Primarily drawing from ethnographic research conducted in Mongolia, her research examines the socialites, relationships, moralities and ethics that emerge within urban spaces. She published *Shaping Urban Futures in Mongolia – Ulaanbaatar, Dynamic Ownership and Economic Flux* with UCL Press in 2020.

What can the history of Mongolian forest fires teach us?

Byambagerel Suren

National University of Mongolia

Byambagerel is a lecturer at the National University of Mongolia, specialising in dendrology, dendrochronology, and horticulture in urban areas. Byambagerel has been crucial in numerous projects, including international collaborations on biological decomposition and sustainable forest management. She is dedicated to working with local communities to improve forest management practices and mitigate climate change effects. Her extensive experience and commitment to environmental conservation significantly contributes to advancing forestry practices in Mongolia and supporting local community adaptation strategies.

A multispecies anthropological approach to influenza in Mongolia

Associate Professor Natasha Fijn

Australian National University

Associate Professor Natasha Fijn is Director of the Australian National University's Mongolia Institute. She has been awarded a mid-career ARC Future Fellowship, researching 'A Multi-species Anthropological Approach to Influenza'. Natasha wrote a seminal multispecies ethnography based in Mongolia, *Living with Herds: human-animal coexistence in Mongolia* (2011). She recently co-edited the book *Nurturing Alternative Futures: living with diversity in a more-than-human world* (2023) and another volume on *Mongolian Healing* is forthcoming with Amsterdam University Press.

Discussants

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[Australian National University](#)

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Associate Professor Li Narangoa

[Australian National University](#)

Li Narangoa completed her PhD in East and Central Asian History at the University of Bonn, Germany. Prior to joining the faculty at ANU, she was a researcher at the University of Bonn and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies in Copenhagen. At ANU, she teaches courses on Japanese history and language, the Mongol Empire in World History, and broader thematic courses such as 'Memories of Conflicts and Reconciliation.' Her research interests include borders, empires, nationalism, memories, and knowledge heritage and transmission.

Associate Professor Qimuge

[Inner Mongolia University](#)

Associate Professor Qimuge is part of the Mongolian Language Institute at The Inner Mongolia University. Her current research focus is on Mongolian dialects and linguistics, while the focus of her PhD was on the Mongolian dialect. She teaches Mongolian language, including different dialects and local culture.

Dr Uchralt Otede

[Australian National University](#)

Dr Uchralt Otede has completed two PhD's, one in Japan, the other in Australia at the ANU. He teaches Japanese at the Diplomatic Academy, at DFAT. He is also a member of staff at the Mongolia Institute, ANU. He joined the ARC Laureate Project 'Informal Life Politics in Northeast Asia' as a PhD researcher at the ANU. A recent upcoming publication is: 'Localising the Environmental Rights: A Case Study of An Environmental NPO in Mongolia' in *Inner Asia* journal (forthcoming, 2025).

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