



Australian
National
University

Myanmar
Research
Centre

2026 Myanmar Update: Contours of a New Myanmar

Program booklet

24-25 July 2026

The conference is convened by the ANU Myanmar Research Centre in the College of Asia and the Pacific, and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales Canberra.



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



CEVAW

ARC Centre of Excellence for the
Elimination of Violence Against Women

The ANU Myanmar Research Centre is grateful to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government and the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEVAW Project # CE230100004) for their generous support in sponsoring this event.

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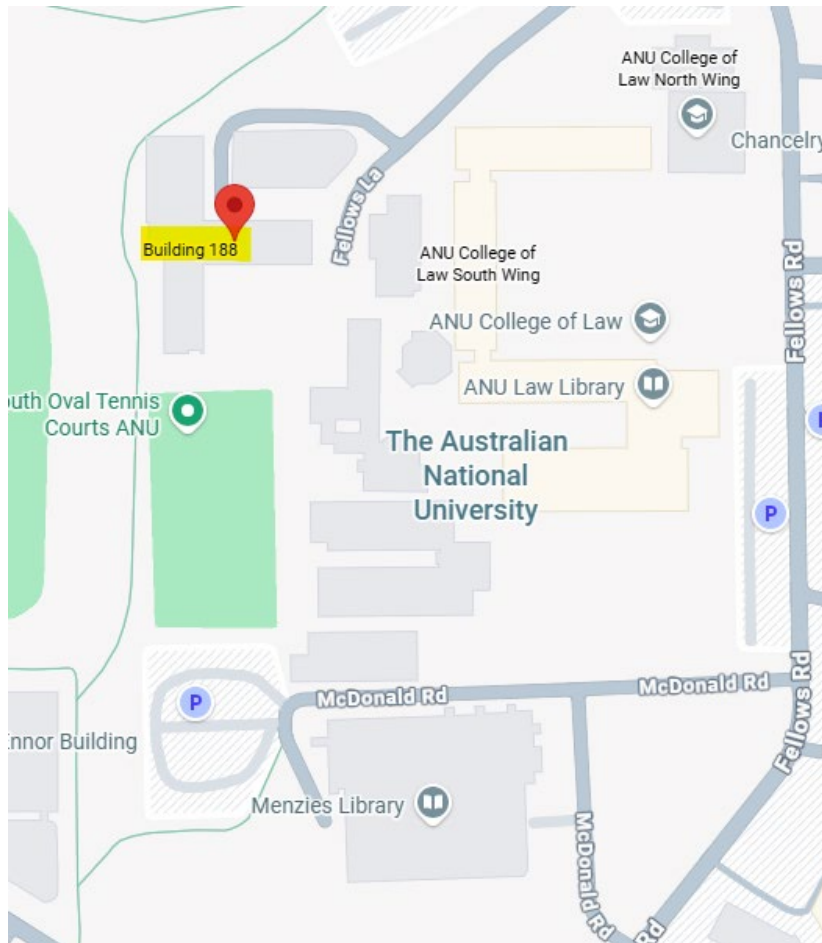
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General information

Location

Australian Centre on China in the World
Building 188, ANU, Fellows Lane
Acton ACT 2601



Wi-Fi details

For the 2026 Myanmar Update, please connect to the following Wi-Fi:

- **Wi-Fi:** ANU-Secure
- **Username:** MU2026
- **Password:** ANU2601!

Program

Day 1: Friday 24 July 9.00am-5.00pm

All sessions: Australian Centre on China in the World, Building 188, ANU

TIME	PROGRAM
9.00am	Welcome Professor Bina D'Costa , Update Convenor & Board Member, ANU Myanmar Research Centre and Chief Investigator, CEVAW Paul Girrawah House , ANU First Nations Portfolio – Welcome to Country Professor Helen Sullivan , Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific Kate Smith , Acting First Secretary of the Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
9.30am	Opening Address Andrew Selth , Adjunct Professor, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University <i>From obscurity to notoriety: Fifty years of Myanmar (Burma) Studies</i>
10.15am	<i>Morning tea (foyer)</i>
10.30am	Keynote Speakers Nyantha Maw Lin, Founder, Anagat Initiatives Kyaw Saw Han, Independent peace and conflict expert Yun Sun, Director of China Program, The Stimson Center (via Zoom) Jared Bissinger, Visiting Fellow with the Myanmar Studies Program at ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute and Research Lead at Catalyst Economics (via Zoom)
1.00pm	<i>Lunch break (foyer)</i>
2.00pm	Panel on “Wartime politics” Tian Zhang , Associate Professor, San Yat-sen University – <i>Depolitisation and party politics during Myanmar’s transitional decline</i> Swe Oo Mon , Postdoctoral Fellow, ANU – <i>Peer influence and voting under perceived illegitimacy: A pre-election experiment in Myanmar</i> Soe Htet , PhD candidate, University of Melbourne – <i>Federalisation from below? Examining power dynamics, stakeholder contestation, and coalition politics in the National Unity Consultative Council (NUCC)</i> Debbie Stothard and Su Lai , ALTSEAN/CEVAW Partners – <i>The Inclusive Federal Economy Policy Project: A Blueprint for Development from the Grassroots</i>
3.15pm	<i>Afternoon tea (foyer)</i>
3.30pm	Panel on “‘The Chinese Border’: conflict, crime, and underdevelopment” Tamas Wells and Zaw Naw , University of Melbourne – <i>Stabilising China-Myanmar borderworlds?: the role of scam centres and humanitarian NGOs</i> Zhengxin Huang , MPhil candidate, Oxford University, UK – <i>Governing through others: How Myanmar’s military regime instrumentalises great powers’ cross-border governance for regime legitimacy</i> D Moon Aung , PhD candidate, Chiang Mai University, Thailand - <i>Fragmented authority and the accountability gap: gold mining governance in post-coup Kachin state</i> Lanung Tu Kumbun , PhD candidate, University of Hyderabad, India - <i>Myanmar’s rare earth minerals: The geopolitical competition between China and India</i>
5.00pm	<i>Conference reception and book launch (foyer)</i> <i>During the conference reception, the following two books will be launched:</i> - Cecile Medail, Samuel Hmung, and Morten B. Pedersen (eds), <i>Myanmar Rises: The Spring Revolution</i> (ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2026 forthcoming) - Melissa Crouch, <i>The Palimpsest Constitution: The Social Life of Constitutions in Myanmar</i> (Oxford University Press, 2025)
6.00pm	End of Day 1

Day 2: Saturday 25 July 9.00am-4.00pm

All sessions: Australian Centre on China in the World, Building 188, ANU

TIME	PROGRAM
9.00am	Panel on “Resistance, local governance and proto state building” Jesua Lynn, Research Fellow, Chiang Mai University, Thailand – <i>Two paths to governance from below: Governance-building trajectories in post-coup Sagaing and Karenni</i> (via pre-recorded video) Tony Neil, Senior Project Collaborator, D-GESS, ETH Zurich – <i>Reforming Kawthoolei: Governance repertoires of the Spring Revolution</i> (via pre-recorded video) Sophia Htwe, PhD candidate, University of Melbourne – <i>Vernacular legitimacy: Community judgements of armed substance governance in post-coup Rakhine state</i> Khaing Min Thant, PhD candidate, UNSW Canberra – <i>Navigating the nexus of Rebel Natural Resource Governance (RNRG), legitimacy and state building: Pathways for Myanmar contested political orders</i>
10.30am	Morning tea (foyer)
10.45am	Panel on “Sustaining public services in the midst of civil war” Nick Cheesman, Associate Professor, ANU/CEVAW Investigator and Ma Hnin Win Aung - <i>National Unity Government (NUG) use of law and courts</i> Tun Aung Shwe, PhD candidate, UNSW Sydney – <i>Communal disputes and the remaking of local governance in post-coup Myanmar</i> Maw Maw Tun, Lecturer in Burmese, ANU – <i>The role of ethnic institutions in higher education</i> Vanessa Johanson and Saw Ku Moo, Peace, conflict, and governance specialists – <i>Building a decentralised health system</i>
12.15pm	Lunch break (foyer)
1.00pm	Panel on “Beyond survival: Humanitarianism, rights and justice in Myanmar’s revolution” Phyu Phyu Oo, Research Fellow, CEVAW, Griffith University – <i>Can the non-state armed groups protect? Conflict-related sexual violence in Myanmar</i> Amporn Marddent, Associate Professor, Thammasat University, Thailand/CEVAW Partner Investigator and Zoe Bell, Research Fellow, CEVAW, ANU – <i>Multidirectional oppression in Post-Coup Myanmar: Accounts from Rohingya women in displacement</i> Aye Aye Aung, Visting Fellow, ANU Myanmar Research Centre – <i>Technology-facilitated violence and resistance experienced by Myanmar women scholars in exile</i>
2.15pm	Afternoon tea (foyer)
2.30pm	Panel on “International engagement” Nicholas Coppel, Honorary Fellow, University of Melbourne – <i>ASEAN ‘interference’ in Myanmar’s ‘internal’ affairs?</i> Phyu Phyu Thin Zaw, Lecturer, University of Hong Kong – <i>Behind closed doors: SDG regression, grassroots resistance in Myanmar, and ASEAN’s structural paralysis</i> Alec Gray, Former manager, UNHCR, North-west Myanmar – <i>Distributing humanitarian aid under the State Administration Council</i> Shannen Ann Enriquez, International peace and development specialist – <i>Localisation under austerity: Rethinking the international aid architecture in Myanmar’s revolution</i>
4.00pm	End of 2026 Myanmar Update

Update Speakers

Day 1: Friday 24 July

Welcome

Professor Bina D'Costa

Board member and Update Convenor, ANU Myanmar Research Centre

Chief Investigator, CEVAW

Bina D'Costa is a Professor at the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University, an ARC Future Fellow and a Chief Investigator at the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW).

Paul Girrawah House

ANU First Nations Portfolio

Paul Girrawah House is a senior Ngambri-Ngunnawal custodian of the Canberra region with Wiradjuri, Walgalu and Ngunnawal ancestry. He is a descendant of Ngambri (Walgalu) man Henry 'Black Harry' Williams and Wallaballoo (Ngunnawal) man 'Murjinille' aka William Lane ('Billy the Bull'), as well as having Wiradjuri ancestries.

Professor Helen Sullivan

Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

Helen Sullivan is a public policy researcher, teacher, advisor, and senior university leader. A political sociologist, she was educated in the humanities and social sciences and holds degrees in Modern History and Political Science (BA Comb. Hons, University of Birmingham, UK), Women's Studies (MA, University of York, UK), and Public Policy (PhD, University of Birmingham, UK). She currently serves as Dean of the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University.

Kate Smith

Acting First Secretary of the Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division, DFAT

Kate Smith is currently the acting First Assistant Secretary of the Southeast Asia Regional and Mainland Division, which leads DFAT's ASEAN engagement as well as Australia's bilateral relationships with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Kate has previously led the Southeast Asia Mainland Branch; advised on key non-proliferation issues in DFAT's AUKUS Taskforce; and served in the International Law Branch advising on international law and treaties matters. She holds a Master of International Law from Leiden University, and a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice (Honours) and a Bachelor of International Studies from Flinders University.

Opening Address

Andrew Selth

Adjunct Professor, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University

Dr Andrew Selth is an Adjunct Professor at the Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University, Brisbane. He has been studying international security issues and Asian affairs for over 50 years, as a diplomat, strategic intelligence analyst and research scholar. During this time, he has published 13 books and more than 50 peer-reviewed monographs, research papers and articles, most of them on aspects of Myanmar (Burma) and its place in the world. He has also contributed to the public debate on Myanmar through some 450 commentaries, op-eds and reviews.

Keynote speakers

Nyantha Maw Lin

Founder, Anagat Initiatives

Nyantha Maw Lin is the Principal at Anagat Initiatives, developing and resourcing novel policy and dialogue efforts on Myanmar. He brings over 18 years of interdisciplinary experience in strategic analysis, sense-making, dialogue facilitation, and troubleshooting at the nexus of government, industry, and civil society. Nyantha has advised public offices, multinational corporations, development financial institutions, think tanks, philanthropies, civic actors, and alternative governance organizations. He has served on the boards of various nonprofits, social impact organizations, and industry associations. Nyantha graduated with a degree in Political Science/International Relations from Carleton College, where he was a C.V. Starr Scholar. He is an Eisenhower Fellow and an Asia 21 Next Generation Fellow.

Kyaw Saw Han

Independent peace and conflict expert

Kyaw Saw Han is an independent researcher and practitioner specializing in conflict, peace and security analysis in Myanmar. He is a graduate of the Australian National University (ANU)'s National Security College, where he earned a Master of National Security Policy. His professional experience includes involvement in multiple research projects with national and international organizations, including Enlighten Myanmar Research Foundation (EMRef), the Institute for Security & Development Policy (ISDP) in Sweden, the Institute for Strategy & Policy (ISP), the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, and other research institutions. His work has supported evidence-based analysis, policy dialogue, and capacity-building initiatives in conflict-affected and politically sensitive environments.

Kyaw Saw Han has strong experience engaging with diverse security actors and institutions in Myanmar on security sector development, dialogue, and conflict transformation. His research interests focus on Myanmar's Ethnic Armed Organizations, particularly along the Myanmar-China border, as well as inter-ethnic tensions and insurgencies across the country.

Yun Sun

Director of China Program, The Stimson Center

Dr. Yun Sun is a Senior Fellow and Director of the China Program at the Stimson Center. Her expertise is in Chinese foreign policy, U.S.-China relations, and China's relations with neighboring countries and authoritarian regimes. From 2011 to early 2014, she was a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution, jointly appointed by the Foreign Policy Program and the Global Development Program, where she focused on Chinese national security decision-making processes and China-Africa relations. From 2008 to 2011, Yun was the China Analyst for the International Crisis Group (ICG) based in Beijing, specializing in China's foreign policy towards conflict countries and the developing world. Prior to the ICG, she worked on U.S.-Asia relations in Washington, DC for five years. Yun earned her Ph.D. degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Jared Bissinger

Visiting Fellow with the Myanmar Studies Programme at ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute and Research Lead at Catalyst Economics

Jared Bissinger is the Research Lead at Catalyst Economics and a Visiting Fellow with the Myanmar Studies Program at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. He is a leading analyst and researcher on Myanmar's economy, and has covered areas including the macroeconomy, business environment, economic governance, labor market, and private sector. Jared has also researched and written on economics and labor markets globally, on topics including informality and the digital economy. His work has been cited in the Economist, Reuters, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times and other outlets. He holds a PhD in Economics from Macquarie University.

Panel on "Wartime politics"

Tian Zhang

Associate Professor, Sun Yat-sen University

Dr. Tian Zhang (Colin Zhang Tint Lwin) is an Associate Professor at the School of International Relations, Sun Yat-sen University, where he holds a PhD in Diplomacy. He was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Yangon (2018–2019) and a Boya Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Area Studies, Peking University (2022–2024). His research focuses on Myanmar's foreign policy, ethnic politics, and the Rohingya issues, and he is currently working on Myanmar's political transition and on China–Myanmar relations. He has extensive fieldwork experience in Myanmar.

Swe Oo Mon

Postdoctoral Fellow, Australian National University

Dr Swe Oo Mon is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian National University (ANU), where she conducts independent research on the political, social, and economic conditions of contemporary Myanmar. She received her PhD from the International University of Japan in 2024. Her dissertation, *Fragile Democracy in Times of the Pandemic in Myanmar: Democracy, Political Attitudes, and Political Behaviors*, examines the impact of two critical events — the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 military coup — on political attitudes and behaviors in Myanmar. Specifically, it aims to understand how the attitudes and behaviors of the Myanmar people toward politics, government, and society have been impacted as a result of the pandemic and political instability. She has diverse experience across the corporate sector, non-governmental organisations, public policy and governance, and academia, which strengthens her interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Soe Htet

PhD candidate, University of Melbourne

Soe Htet is a PhD candidate in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne and a Steering Committee member of the Myanmar Research Network. His research focuses on nation-building, federalism and the political history of Myanmar. He has taught in the online Social Research Skills Program offered by the University of Melbourne and the Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD) at Chiang Mai University. His recent work on the genealogy of federal discourses in Myanmar was published in the edited volume *Federal Design in Myanmar: A Pathway for Unity, Stability, and Inclusivity* (2026).

Debbie Stothard and Su Lai

ALTSEAN/ CEVAW Partners

Debbie Stothard has been working on human rights and democracy in Burma/Myanmar and broader SouthEast Asia since 1988. She is ALTSEAN-Burma's Founder/Coordinator and initiated design of the IFEP project. Debbie's first fulltime job was as a crime reporter in an English national daily in Malaysia in the early 1980s. Prior to forming ALTSEAN-Burma in 1996, she worked in media, academic, and government organizations in Malaysia, Australia and Thailand.

Su is from Burma/Myanmar and currently serves as a Business and Human Rights Project Officer at the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (ALTSEAN-Burma). She has been working in capacity-building, research, and advocacy across Myanmar and Thailand. Her work focuses on business and human rights, inclusion, and promoting rights-based approaches through research, policy engagement, and collaboration with marginalized communities.

Panel on “The Chinese border’: conflict, crime, and underdevelopment”

Tamas Wells and Zaw Naw

University of Melbourne

Tamas Wells is the Coordinator of the Myanmar Research Network in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne. His research focuses on contested meanings of democracy, human rights and accountability in Southeast Asia, and impact on development policy. His book *Narrating Democracy in Myanmar* examines the Burmese opposition movement in the lead up to the historic 2015 elections in Myanmar and diverging narratives of democracy within the movement, and amongst its international supporters. Before entering academia, he worked as an aid and development adviser and consultant with various NGOs including Save the Children, with seven years living and working in Myanmar.

Zaw Naw (also known as Naw Naw) is a Master of Development Studies candidate at the University of Melbourne. His research explores humanitarian localisation through the perspectives of local civil society organisations in Kachin State, Myanmar, with a particular focus on civil society, governance, and locally led humanitarian action in conflict-affected settings. Before commencing his studies, he worked for more than 5 years with a locally led civil society organisation in the Kachin State borderlands, where he led humanitarian and community development programmes. His research interests include humanitarian localisation, civil society, community resilience, and governance in conflict-affected borderlands.

Zhengxin Huang

MPhil candidate, Oxford University, UK

Zhengxin Huang is an MPhil student in Global and Area Studies at the University of Oxford. Her research interests include Southeast Asian politics, China–Southeast Asia relations, and global governance. Her work on Myanmar focuses on the regime legitimacy, the Rohingya issue, and China–Myanmar relations. Her current MPhil thesis explores how China’s Global Initiatives are interpreted, localized, and practiced in Southeast Asia.

D Moon Aung

PhD candidate, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

D Moon Aung is a PhD student at the School of Public Policy, Chiang Mai University, and a lecturer in Development Studies at Naushawng College, Myitkyina, Kachin State. His research focus on resource governance, non-state governance institutions, community development, and peace and social cohesion in conflict-affected areas of Myanmar. He works as a practitioner–researcher in education and local governance, examining how non-state local institutions shape people’s access to resources, protection, and basic services amid conflict and displacement.

Lanung Tu Kumbun

PhD candidate, University of Hyderabad, India

Lanung Tu Kumbun is a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Hyderabad, India. Before his doctoral studies, he lectured in political studies at Naushawng College in Kachin State, Myanmar. He is an alumnus of the Liberty and Leadership Forum at the George W. Bush Presidential Centre and the U.S. State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program.

Book launch

Myanmar Rises: The Spring Revolution

Cecile Medail

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Copenhagen

Cecile holds a PhD in International Political Studies from the University of New South Wales - ADFA in Canberra. Her main research interests include democratisation, state-building and ethnic politics in Myanmar. Prior to her doctoral studies, she worked with Burmese grassroots organisations in Thailand and in Myanmar for eight years. As a visiting fellow and Myanmar Research Centre affiliate, Cecile has been co-convening the MRC Dialogue series since 2022 and she is the lead convenor of the 2023 Myanmar Update conference. She is also a postdoctoral researcher at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies and the Department of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Samuel Hmung

PhD candidate, ANU

Salai Samuel Hmung is a PhD student at the Department of Political and Social Change of the Australian National University (ANU) and a research officer at the ANU's Myanmar Research Centre. His PhD project explores the revolutionary dynamics and relationship between non-violent and violent movements in Myanmar and beyond. He received a Master of Political Science (Advanced) from the ANU under the Australian Awards scholarship. His master thesis applied an original power-sharing framework to explore and compare the preferences of Myanmar's elite political actors for power-sharing through their public statements from 2015 to 2020 by using a dictionary-based content analysis method.

Morten Pedersen

Senior Lecturer, UNSW Canberra

Dr Morten Pedersen is Senior Lecturer in International and Political Studies at the University of New South Wales Canberra (Australian Defence Force Academy) and a former senior analyst for the International Crisis Group in Myanmar. In addition to teaching and research, he has worked as a policy advisor on Myanmar politics and development affairs for the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Commission, the Australian government, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Martti Ahtisaari, among others.

The Palimpsest Constitution: The Social Life of Constitutions in Myanmar

Melissa Crouch

Professor, UNSW Sydney

Melissa Crouch is based at the School of Global & Public Law, the Faculty of Law & Justice, the University of New South Wales, where she runs the Asia Law & Policy Forum. Her current research is on the military as a constitutional actor in Asia, supported by an ARC Future Fellowship. Her recent book, [*The Palimpsest Constitution: The Social Life of Constitutions in Myanmar*](#) (OUP, 2025), was awarded the inaugural [Best Book Prize 2026 of the International Association of Constitutional Law](#) (IACL-AIDC). Her research contributes to socio-legal approaches to constitutionalism in the Global South, the legacies of law in the post-colony, and legal pluralism.

Day 2: Saturday 25 July

Panel on “Resistance, local governance and proto state building”

Jesua Lynn

Research Fellow, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

Jesua Lynn is a researcher specializing in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and migration, with a focus on conflict studies and governance. He holds an MA in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Manchester as a Chevening Scholar, with a dissertation awarded by the British International Studies Association, the British Council, and the Association of South East Asia Studies (UK). He currently serves as a Myanmar Researcher at a conflict monitoring organization and Research Specialist at a governance project, and is affiliated with Chiang Mai University. His publications span diaspora activism, rebel diplomacy, rebel governance, and Myanmar in a multipolar order, appearing in Asia Democracy Chronicles, the Asian International Studies Review, and a Routledge volume on Indo-Pacific diaspora, peace, and conflict."

Tony Neil

Senior Project Collaborator, D-GESS, ETH Zurich

Tony Neil is a senior project collaborator at ETH Zurich, where he works on a project analysing patterns of state and armed group violence against the Rohingya in Rakhine State, alongside Rohingya activism, memorialisation, and the agency of survivors in creating historical memory. His doctoral research at the London School of Economics and Political Science drew on fifteen months of fieldwork on the Thai–Myanmar border and in eastern Myanmar, developing a micro-level, practice-based approach to rebel authority through the case of the Karen National Union and other Karen armed groups. He has more than fifteen years of experience working on Myanmar, including a decade living in the country between 2010 and 2020. His current research spans armed group governance and conflict-related violence against civilians, and he is developing a project on the politics of ethnicity in Myanmar's Spring Revolution. He has previously worked with Myanmar civil society organisations, as a consultant to non-governmental organisations and UN agencies, and as a policy adviser to the UK government on the Rohingya crisis.

Sophia Htwe

PhD candidate, University of Melbourne

Sophia Htwe is a PhD candidate in Conflict and Peace Studies at the University of Melbourne. Her research focuses on conflict, peacebuilding, rebel governance, conflict economies, and social justice.

Her doctoral research examines how local civil society actors pursue and contest peace amid conflict, authoritarian governance, and ethnic divisions in Myanmar's Rakhine State. Before beginning her PhD, Sophia worked for over a decade with local and international organisations in Myanmar on development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding initiatives. Her work bridges research, policy, and practice to support locally grounded approaches to peacebuilding and governance. She holds a Master of International Community Development from Victoria University, Melbourne.

Khaing Min Thant

PhD candidate, UNSW Canberra

Khaing Min Thant is currently a PhD candidate at School of Humanities & Social Sciences, UNSW, Australia. His research focuses on natural resource governance (NRG) and its intersection with legitimacy and state building in Myanmar, investigating how Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) govern natural resources in contested territories and its implications for legitimacy and state building.

He is currently the recipient of the Australian Government's Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship for his PhD research.

Prior to his doctoral research, Khaing Min Thant held senior roles with international organisations including United Nations (UN) and Trócaire, managing complex humanitarian, development and peace building programs. He has extensive field experience on land rights, environmental governance, climate resilience, and civil society strengthening in fragile and conflict-affected settings, working closely with Indigenous and ethnic minority communities in Myanmar ethnic states.

Khaing Min Thant holds an MSc (Agri) in Environmental Resource Management from University College Dublin (UCD, Ireland) and a Post graduate Diploma in Development Studies from Yangon University of Economics.

His publications include peer-reviewed book chapters in *Springer's Global Encyclopaedia of Territorial Rights* and policy commentary in *The Diplomat* among many others. He remains actively engaged in global discussions on inclusive governance, locally led development, natural resources management and state-building

Panel on "Sustaining public services in the midst of civil war"

Nick Cheesman

Associate Professor, Australian National University/ CEVAW Associate Investigator

Nick Cheesman is the Director of the ANU Myanmar Research Centre, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Political and Social Change, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. His last book was *Myanmar: A Political Lexicon*, published in 2023 by Cambridge University Press. In 2024 he jointly edited (with Justine Chambers) a special issue of the *Journal of Contemporary Asia* on revolution and solidarity in Myanmar.

Ma Hnin Win Aung

Hnin Win Aung is an attorney and human rights defender from Myanmar, specializing in judicial accountability, fair trial rights, gender equality, and the rule of law. She holds an LL.B. from Yangon University. Her extensive legal practice includes providing legal representation for political detainees at Insein Prison and serving as a legal advisor for the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). She has contributed as a legal professional to the Rule of Law Promotion project with the British Council and Loka Ahlinn and the Fair Trial project with Justice Base. She previously served as the assistant general secretary of the Agriculture and Farmer Federation of Myanmar (AFFM-IUF) and an administrative committee member of the Peace Studies Center for the 2020–2022 academic years. She is an alumna of the UNSW Kaldor Centre's Displaced Scholars Program; her research focuses on judicial complicity and military justice systems. Her working paper on the NUG military legal system has been published by the ANU Myanmar Research Center.

Tun Aung Shwe

PhD candidate, UNSW Sydney

Dr Tun Aung Shwe is the National Unity Government's Representative to the Commonwealth of Australia with the aim to strengthen engagement between the governments, the parliaments, and the people of the two countries. He studied public health and health management dual-master degrees at the University of New South Wales. He is finishing his PhD at the university, which focuses on how sport contributes to peacebuilding, reconciliation, and social cohesion.

Maw Maw Tun

Lecturer in Burmese, Australian National University

Dr. Maw Maw Tun is a Burmese Lecturer at the Australian National University. Her research focuses on the integration of technology in language learning and education, including virtual reality and language anxiety, artificial intelligence, and the use of technology in higher education in Myanmar. Beyond her research, Dr. Tun is deeply committed to Myanmar's education development, with a particular interest in advancing language education, supporting teacher professional development, and promoting the integration of innovative technologies in Myanmar's higher education landscape.

Vanessa Johanson and Saw Ku Moo

Peace, conflict, and governance specialists

Vanessa Johanson runs a non-profit analytical service with analysts based around Myanmar, focusing on the nexus of peace, conflict, governance, development and humanitarian issues. Vanessa has worked on conflict, peace and governance in and on Myanmar for 13 years, previously as a Senior Peace Advisor for USAID, and as Country Director for Myanmar for the US Institute of Peace. Prior to Myanmar, she was based in the region working on peace, governance, human rights and media development in Indonesia, Timor Leste, Afghanistan, Yemen, Cambodia, and elsewhere since 1996. She holds a Masters in Anthropology and International Development from the Australian National University.

Saw Ku Moo is a Local Analyst for Kayah (Karenni) state for an analytical service. Prior to LIS, he worked with youth organisations and Civil Society Organisations in both Karenni refugee camp along the Thai-Myanmar border and IDP communities inside Karenni State. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Policy and Development from Thammasat University.

Panel on “Beyond survival: Humanitarianism, rights and justice in Myanmar’s revolution”

Phyu Phyu Oo

Research Fellow, CEVAW, Griffith University

Dr Phyu Phyu Oo is a Research Fellow at the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) at Griffith University. Her research focuses on addressing critical issues related to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and other crises. With over a decade of experience as a practitioner in development and humanitarian settings across the Asia-Pacific region, she brings academic expertise and practical insight to her work. She is a Fulbright scholar, and her book, 'Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Myanmar: The Role of the State', was recognised with the John Legge Thesis Prize for the best thesis in Asian Studies by the Asian Studies Association of Australia.

Amporn Marddent

Associate Professor, Thammasat University, Thailand/ CEVAW Partner Investigator

Associate Professor Dr Amporn Marddent is a lecturer in the Faculty of Sociology and Anthropology at Thammasat University, Thailand. Since 2020, she has served as Thailand’s representative to the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR), contributing expertise on gender and peacebuilding. She is currently an investigator at the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW). Her research focuses on the anthropology of Islam, displacement, human trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence, peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in Southeast Asia.

Zoe Bell

Research Fellow, CEVAW, Australian National University

Zoe Bell is a Research Fellow at The Australian National University, as part of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW). Zoe is also a social worker with over 15 years’ experience working across child protection, trauma, domestic and family violence, and forced migration. Zoe’s research utilises participatory research methods and community building activities. Zoe’s current research project with CEVAW at the ANU focuses on violence against women in displacement and trafficking context across the Indo-Pacific region.

Aye Aye Aung

Visiting Fellow, ANU Myanmar Research Centre

Aye Aye Aung is an aspiring international development professional with a strong commitment to advancing gender equality and educational development, particularly for women and young people. She is pursuing a master's degree in gender and development studies at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. Her professional experience includes roles with Mercy Corps, International Republican Institute, and Plan International, supporting gender inclusion, economic empowerment, and community development initiatives. She also leads academic programming and gender-focused webinars at Spring University Myanmar. A 2024 YSEALI Professional Fellow, she currently researches technology-facilitated violence among exiled women academics from Myanmar after the 2021 coup through the Myanmar–Australia Visiting Fellowship Program.

Panel on “International engagement”

Nicholas Coppel

Honorary Fellow, University of Melbourne

Nicholas Coppel is a former senior career diplomat and was Australia’s Ambassador to Myanmar (2015-2018). He is currently Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne and Vice President of the Australia Myanmar Institute.

Previous postings include head of the peacekeeping and state-building Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), Deputy High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, Deputy Ambassador to the Philippines and a posting to Washington DC.

Since the February 2021 coup, Nicholas has written opinion editorials and been interviewed by numerous media outlets about developments in Myanmar. He has researched and authored two book chapters and co-authored several academic articles on Myanmar. His monograph, *Myanmar’s Digital Coup – How the World Responded*, co-authored with Associate Professor Lennon Chang, is published by Palgrave Macmillan (2024).

Phyu Phyu Thin Zaw

Lecturer, University of Hong Kong

Phyu Phyu Thin Zaw is a Myanmar Australian Fellow at both the University of Melbourne and the Australian National University. She is a medical doctor, epidemiologist, and lecturer at the University of Hong Kong. Phyu Phyu obtained her MBBS from the University of Medicine Mandalay, completed her Master of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University, and earned her PhD in Epidemiology from Prince of Songkla University, Thailand. She also got her postdoctoral training as a WHO fellow/Visiting Scholar at the Asia Health Policy Program (AHPP) at Stanford’s Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Centre. In addition to her academic work, Phyu Phyu serves a member of the “Steering Committee, Science in Exile Initiatives” at The World Academy of Sciences, UNESCO, advocating for displaced scientists in conflict-affected countries. Prior to her academic career, Phyu Phyu gained substantial experience in health system strengthening while working for the Ministry of Health and Sports in Myanmar for 12 years. She also serves as the Head of the School of Health at Spring University Myanmar delivering public health trainings tailored to the needs of health workforce in crisis settings.

Alec Gray

Former manager, UNHCR, North-west Myanmar

Alec Gray holds a Master of Arts in Strategy & Policy/International Relations from UNSW Canberra at ADFA with professional experience in Defence Strategic Policy Branch. This includes regional arms control and security issues. He also holds a Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil & Structural Engineering, engaged in disaster preparedness, and post-disaster recovery in Papua New Guinea, the Maldives, Chile, and Nepal. In 2023, he served with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as Shelter and Camp Coordination lead in north-west Myanmar. Having travelled extensively throughout Myanmar, he maintains a longstanding interest in the country and its people. His current research focuses entirely on the evolving political, territorial, humanitarian, and security dimensions of Myanmar’s ongoing conflict.

Shannen Ann Enriquez

International peace and development specialist

Shannen Ann Enriquez is a peacebuilding practitioner and researcher whose career spans donor agencies, including DFAT, NGOs, and research. She is drawn to the intersection of theory and practice: what the evidence looks like when tested in complex, real-world contexts, and what that means for how peacebuilding work is designed and delivered. Her expertise is rooted in Southeast Asia, particularly the Bangsamoro peace process and Myanmar’s conflict-affected communities, spanning women, peace and security, disarmament, security sector engagement, and aid localisation. She holds an MA in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Manchester as a Chevening Scholar.