

**International education beyond  
the doctorate: using early career  
researcher mobility to support  
international linkages.**

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THE AUSTRALIAN  
APEC STUDY CENTRE  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation



# Presenters –

Ms Briony Wood-Ingram (Interim Director,  
Australian APEC Study Centre)

Professor Christopher Ziguras (Deputy  
Dean, International, RMIT School of  
Global, Urban and Social Studies)

Dr Irene Strodthoff (2017 Australia APEC  
Women in Research Fellowship Recipient)



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# Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship - Background

- One of APEC's key goals is to support economic and technical cooperation in order to address the many challenges and opportunities that face the region.
- Enhanced research and education cooperation among APEC economies fosters innovative growth as students, researchers and education providers build scientific, technological and linguistic communities.

# Background cont.

2012:

- APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration on Cross-Border Education Cooperation, directed Ministers and officials to pursue the enhancement of student, researcher and provider mobility.

2014:

- APEC University Associations Cross-Border Education Cooperation Workshop, hosted by the Australian Department of Education, discussed regional education mobility and ways to take forward the APEC Leaders' 2012 Declaration.
- Delegates identified the particular importance of providing support for the mobility of female researchers.
- Establishment of Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship by Department of Education

# Fellowship design

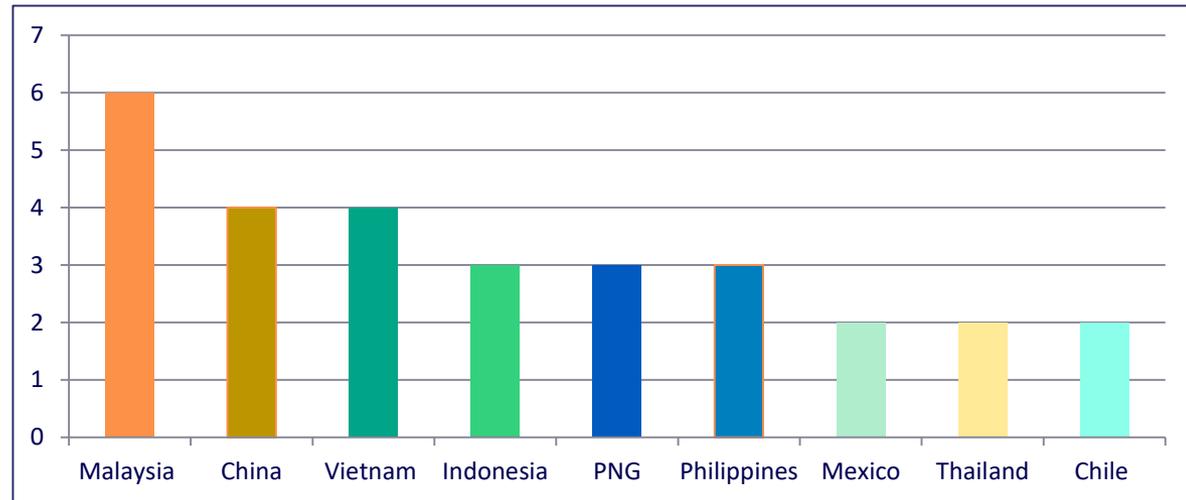
- Financial support for high-achieving female researchers from developing APEC economies to pursue research opportunities in partnership with Australian education and research institutions.
- Designed to build and deepen institutional linkages, create professional networks, support professional development and exchange expertise with Australian researchers.
- For female researchers who are emerging leaders in their field and are at the forefront of their research discipline. Candidates from a wide range of specified disciplines are welcomed to apply.
- Similar to Australian Government's Endeavour Executive Fellowship but includes features to address gender barriers such as a childcare allowance.

# Australian APEC Study Centre

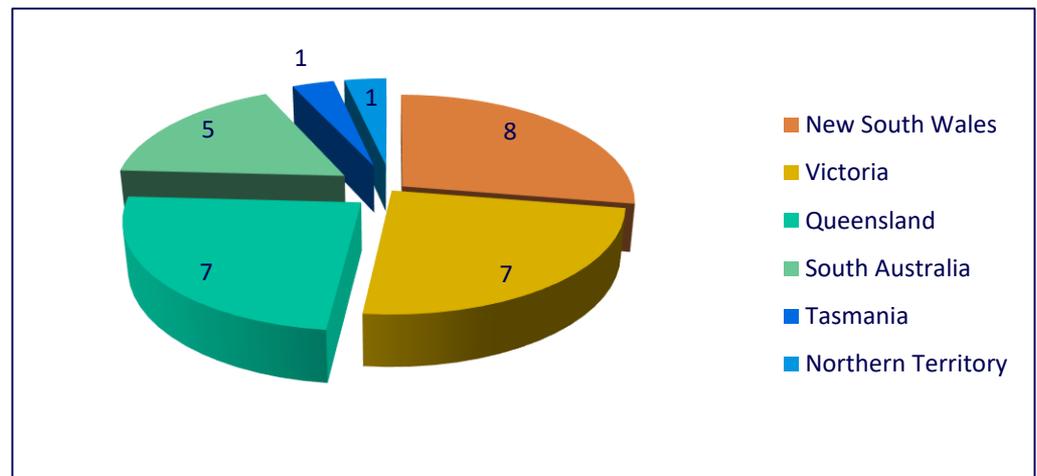
Administers fellowship for the Department of Education, including:

- Fellowship promotion in Australia and APEC economies
- Implementing and oversight of application process
- Coordinating the assessment of applications with board of judges
- Supporting successful fellows
- Evaluating the final research experience
- Gathering data through monitoring and evaluation

## Economies of Origin



## Australian State distribution for past fellows



# Christopher Ziguras

Deputy Dean, International,  
School of Global, Urban and  
Social Studies



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# Dr Nghiem Quynh Chi (2016 Fellowship Recipient)



**Economy:** Viet Nam

**Partnering Australian institution:** University of Tasmania

**Time period:** 1 August - 31 October 2016

**Project:** Occurrence and structure of polyploidy in natural populations of *Acacia dealbata* in Tasmania

Dr Nghiem Quynh Chi's project determined patterns of variation in the frequency of diploid, triploid and tetraploid trees. She then looked for clonal development.

## **Why Chi decided to enter the fellowship:**

This was an opportunity for Chi to reinforce her links with the Australian breeding specialists who guided her PhD and allowed her to gain new insights into polyploid systems in the Acacia. The output from this activity will assist her in planning her ongoing work on tropical species in Vietnam for at least the next 3 years.

# Dr Fiona Hukula (2016 Fellowship Recipient)



**Economy:** PNG

**Partnering Australian institution:** Australian National University

**Time period:** 8 October - 10 December 2016

**Project:** 'Addressing gender based violence in an urban village court'

Dr Fiona Hukula's research project investigated how Gender Based Violence is negotiated and mediated through the use of both informal (Komiti) and formal (Village Court) dispute resolution mechanisms in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

## **Why Fiona decided to enter the fellowship:**

"I see this fellowship as a good opportunity to not only share my research with like-minded researchers at the ANU but also learn from their research and expertise. This fellowship also provides me with the opportunity to make important academic connections".

# Dr Ying Shen (2015 Fellowship Recipient)



**Economy:** P.R. China

**Partnering Australian institution:** Faculty of Law, Bond University

**Project:** Trade Liberalisation, Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and Climate Change Mitigation: Implications for China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA)

Dr Ying Shen's project aimed to provide suggestions for both promoting trade liberalization and taking measures to mitigate climate change in both China and Australia.

## **Why Ying decided to enter the fellowship:**

“As a female social science researcher, I expect to be involved in high-calibre female research groups and networks to communicate with other successful academics on how to be a role model. I believe this fellowship will not only help broaden my research network but also improve my intercultural competence.”

# Dr Reena Rajasuriar (2015 Fellowship Recipient)



**Economy:** Malaysia

**Partnering Australian institution:** Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, University of Melbourne

**Project:** Novel determinants of immune reconstitution following antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected individuals

This research program has helped identify genetic determinants of immune recovery in patients at greatest risk of poor immune reconstitution following antiretroviral therapy.

**Why Reena decided to enter the fellowship:**

“Australia has had an instrumental role in the discovery of landmark findings which have significantly advanced HIV research.”

“I am confident this research program will be an impetus for the development of other collaborative projects, proposals for international research funding and joint-supervision of post-graduate students which will benefit more scientists from both countries.”

# Nurturing transnational scholarly connections to attract funding

1. Former Australian doctoral students who had continued to collaborate with their awarding institution
  - Publicise research funding opportunities to doctoral alumni
  - Post-doctoral small grants to support joint publication and seeding next projects
2. Linked research centres with a history of collaboration
  - Help key centres to develop international strategies, including partnerships
3. Isolated researcher seeking to collaborate with a team with significant reputation
  - Make sure there is clear information on the centre's website on support opportunities for scholars seeking to engage
4. Researchers investigating common experiences or the bilateral relationship
  - Support research teams with targeted profiling in partner country, matchmaking

# Identifying international projects that will attract funding

Telling the story of the research journal is critical, linking past – present - future

Not necessary to have stellar track record, but need to explain to a generalist audience the worthiness of work so far (limited availability of previous funding or international study opportunities can work in one's favour)

There needs to be a really good reason for doing this research right here (immediate research unit is much more important than host institution as a whole)

The research should lead to broader benefits for each country and strengthen the relationship between them (usually in a very particular field of research or practice)

# Chile and Australia: fostering visibility and south-south connections

**Dr Irene Strodthoff**

Visiting Researcher at RMIT University

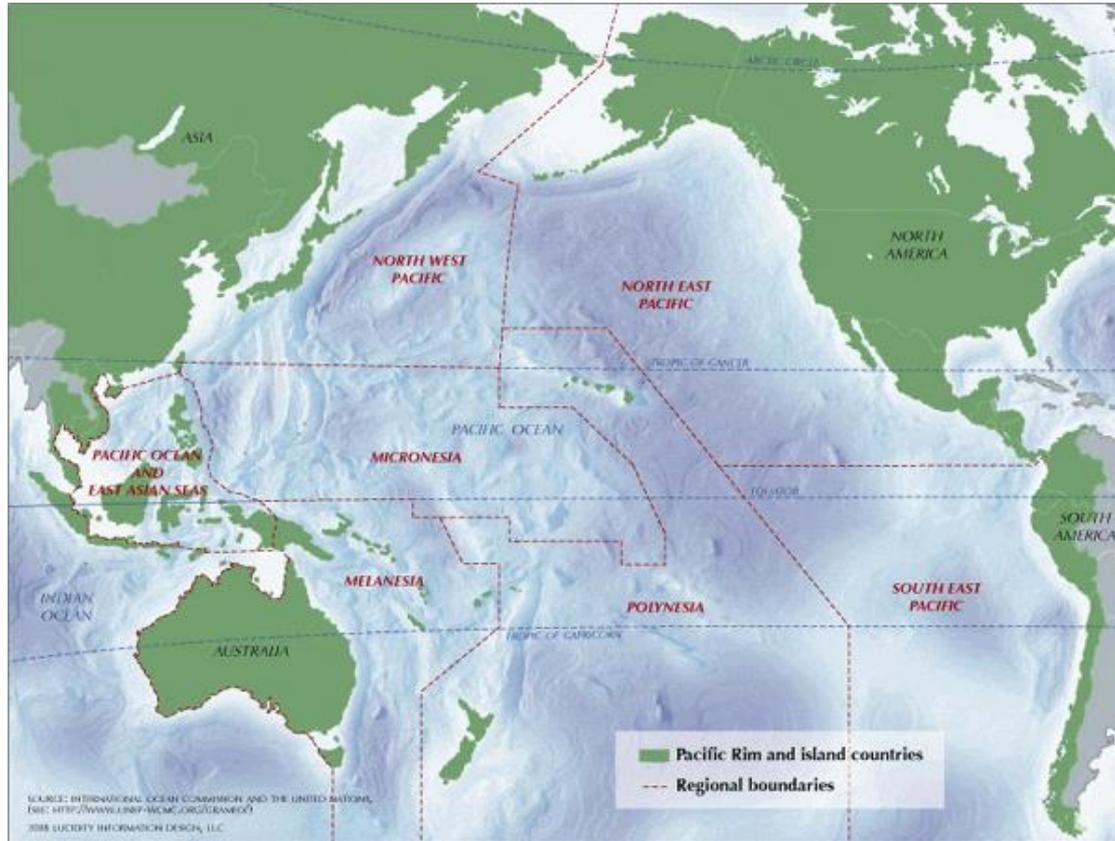
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# Geographical context



# Transpacific connections

**Why to apply?**

**What is the role of institutions?**

State

Universities

**Do they play a role?**

**What can institutions do better?**

# AUSTRALIA



**Black Saturday 2009 (Victoria)**



# CHILE

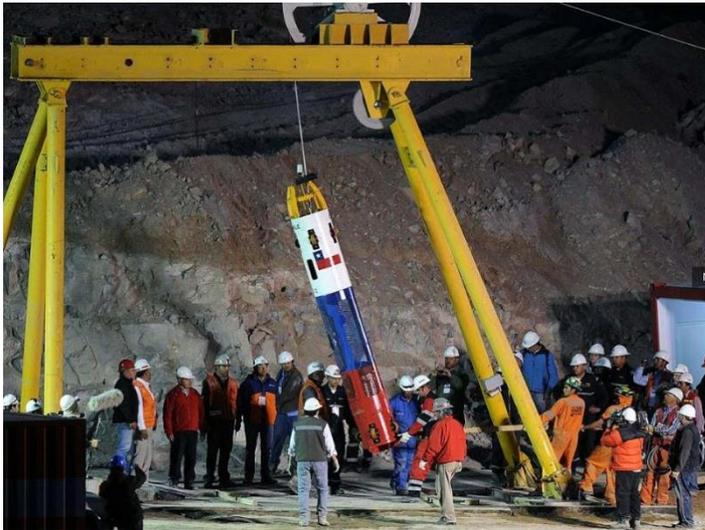


## Bushfires 2017

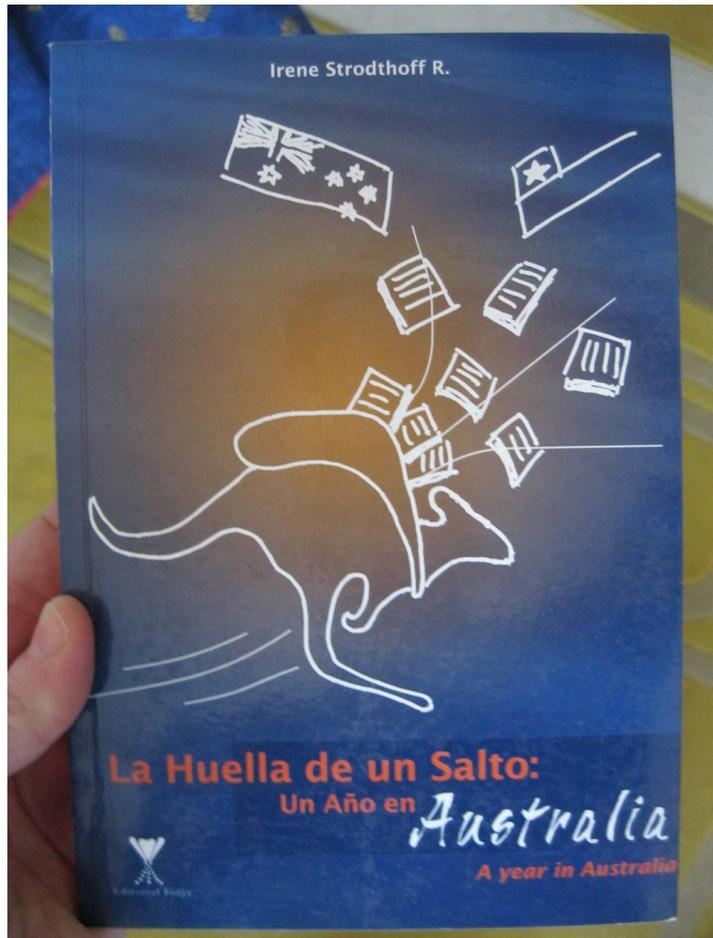


# Section 2

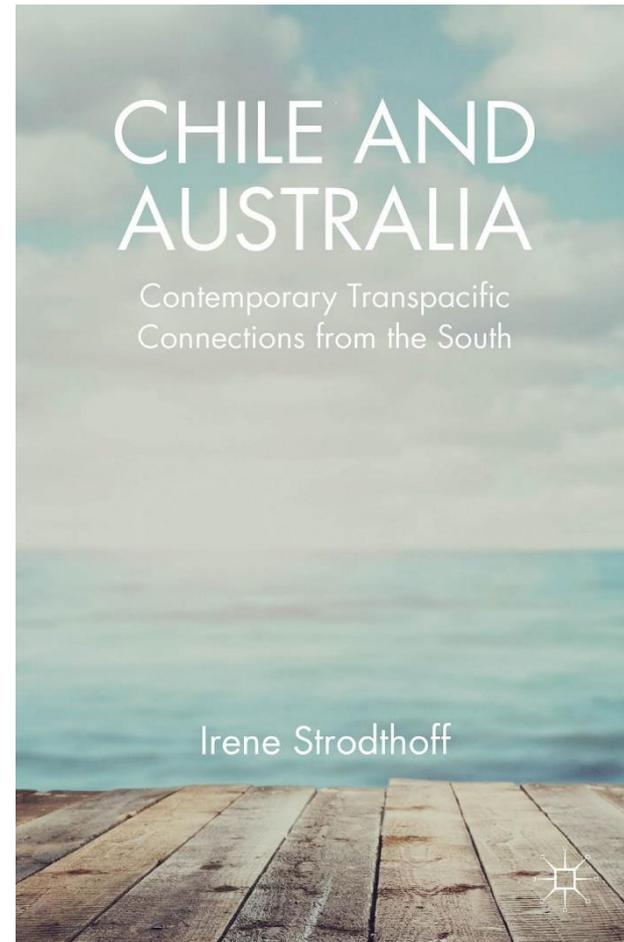
# Rescue Chilean Miners 2010



# Books as a result of PG studies



2007



2014

# Book presentations



Santiago - Australian Education International and Macquarie University (2007)



Sydney – Palgrave Macmillan, Gleebooks and Anepe (2015)

# Visits of Australian professionals



Mr **Ian Irving**, native title mediator of the Federal Court of Australia, 2015

Mr **Geordie Williamson**, writer and journalist at *The Australian* newspaper, 2015

Dr **Delia Falconer**, novelist and academic at UTS, 2015

# Old jacaranda - The University of Sydney



# Key outcomes/feedback thus far....

- Benefits of cross collaboration – access to leading researchers based in Australia in particular fields
- Promotion of excellence in research by female scholars
- Highly regarded support and assistance from the host institutions and Australian APEC Study Centre
- Creating new networks and research partnerships
- Strengthening existing partnerships
- Engaging with scholars from different fields, particularly cross disciplinary scholars
- Access to materials and equipment not available in home economy
- Improved research outcomes
- Attracting international researchers for long term fellowships to Australian Institutions

# Focus areas for improvement...

- Possible extension of the fellowship duration
- One size fits all for all fields of research e.g. application process, budgeting for materials in particular areas of research
- Networking between fellows
- Continuing to assess the barriers for mobility of female researchers from developing economies and ensuring we address these through program design

# Thankyou

2018 round of Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship open for applications in February 2018

For more information please contact:

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Or visit the Australian APEC Study Centre website:

[www.apec.org.au](http://www.apec.org.au)