



# APSA Annual Conference 2013 Final Report

# APSA 2013 Convenor's Report

Shahar Hameiri



The 2013 conference of the Australian Political Studies Association was hosted by Murdoch University and held on the University's South Street campus from 30 September to 2 October. 307 delegates from Australian and overseas universities attended the conference, reflecting the breadth and depth of political and international relations research. In fact, APSA2013 was the biggest APSA conference to-date, demonstrating the exciting dynamism of our discipline in recent times. The conference was held over three full days, showcasing 85 panels and roundtables organised into seven streams – international relations, public policy, Asian politics, comparative politics, political theory, Australian politics, and the politics of natural resources.

Quite appropriately for a conference held in Perth, APSA2013's theme was The Politics of Natural Resources: Contemporary Patterns of Governance and Conflict. The keynote address by Professor Shaun Breslin from Warwick University (UK) reflected the significance of this theme for any assessment of contemporary world politics. China's growing international assertiveness has made many of its neighbours uneasy. Professor Breslin examined China's rising profile, paying particular attention to Chinese leadership concerns over the stable supply of energy and other essential resources in shaping China's international engagement. The conference theme also underpinned APSA2013's other key event, the Roundtable on Governing the Resources Boom. Chaired by Murdoch's own Dr Jeffrey Wilson, the roundtable brought together eminent international and Australian speakers from academia, NGOs and the private sector – Professor Shaun Breslin (Warwick), Professor Ronnie Lipschutz (UCSC), Serena Lillywhite (Oxfam Australia), Professor Peter Vale (University of Johannesburg) and Sarah Hooper (WA Chamber of Energy and Mines) – to discuss the challenges and possibilities associated with the worldwide resources boom of the past decade. Finally, the Politics of Natural Resources stream, under Dr Wilson's leadership, was vibrant and stimulating with 17 dedicated panels overall, covering a range of related topics.

APSA2013 was a large and difficult undertaking for the politics group at Murdoch University, and as chair of the organising committee, I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee, our student volunteers and the EECW event management team for all their efforts in making the conference a success. I would also like to thank our sponsors, the university management and the Dean of the School of Management and Governance for their support. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Professor Caroline Hughes, who played an important role in the early months of preparations, before taking up a new position in the UK.

The next APSA conference will be held at the University of Sydney in 2014.

Shahar Hameiri

# Organising Committee

- Dr Shahar Hameiri (Chair)
- Professor Vedi Hadiz
- Professor Mark Beeson
- Dr Ian Cook
- Dr Janice Dudley
- Dr Kelly Gerard
- Dr Yvonne Haigh
- Dr Jeffrey Wilson

# Student Volunteers

- Jamal Barnes
- Shaomin Xu
- Darmiyanti Muchtar
- Fabio Scarpello
- Asep Iqbal
- Melissa Johnston
- Charanpal Bal
- Airlangga Pribadi Kusman
- Darmiyanti Muchtar

# Professional Conference Organiser



## Conference Secretariat

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# Conference Theme

## THE POLITICS OF NATURAL RESOURCES: CONTEMPORARY PATTERNS OF GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT

In the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, natural resources have become entrenched in both national and international political agendas.

Due to rapid growth and industrialisation in a range of developing countries, global demand for and consumption of natural resources – food, minerals, energy, water and environmental goods – has surged. Intensifying patterns of resource consumption have stoked concerns about energy and food security; ecological and social sustainability; and relations between countries that are resource-rich and those that aren't.

Ranging across each of these are questions over the governance of natural resources at the local, national and international scales. How are the governance arrangements for natural resources – shaping patterns of ownership, extraction, consumption and control – constructed? What are their distributional impacts for how resource wealth (and poverty) is divided within and between societies? Are these governance systems sustainable? And how is political conflict over distributional and sustainability issues recasting resource governance arrangements in today's world?





## Keynote Address: Low Profile No More? Resource (In) Security and Chinese Worldviews

**Professor Shaun Breslin**, Director, Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick.



Shaun Breslin is Professor of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick where, as Director for the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, he is currently managing a large EU funded project on the EU and the Multipolar Global Order.

His research primarily addresses the political economy of contemporary China, with a second strand focussing on comparative studies of regionalism. He is also co-editor of the Pacific Review, and Associate Fellow of the Chatham House Asia Programme.

## Abstract

# Low Profile No More? Resource (In)Security and Chinese World Views

The end of China's policy of "keeping a low" profile in international relations has been widely sighted and commented on in recent years. The forceful assertion of territorial claims in the South and East China seas, on-going military (and particularly naval) modernisation, an increasing economic presence overseas, and relatively forthright criticism of the nature of the existing global order have all combined to convince many that the time is coming when China will seek to change the world to fit its interests, philosophies and objectives. But while it's clear that there is considerable dissatisfaction with the current order in China, it's not so clear that there is any great appetite to fundamentally change the system (rather than power balances within it) or for China to take on the responsibilities and burdens that go with global leadership.

Considerations of energy (in)security play an important role in shaping Chinese policy and thinking. Whilst the focus on a coherent Chinese state strategy often overlooks the commercial objectives of Chinese companies operating overseas, the need to secure energy supplies (and indeed, a whole range of resources) has helped propel Chinese overseas economic activity. It has also fed into thinking on the logic of maintaining an unswerving commitment to preventing infringements of sovereignty overseas, and how best to create a national image of China as a new type of "Great Power" (a dissatisfied reformist Great Power). But at the same time, policy makers are aware that being seen to be a threat to the existing order could result in alliances designed to prevent China getting what it wants, and that a stable and pacific international environment is most conducive to ensuring stable and predictable resource flows. The result is a set of policies and positions that seems to change depending on who is being engaged, and the intended audience.

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: Politics and Science in the Anthropocene

*Stephanie Lawson: Professor of Politics and International Relations, Macquarie University*



## Abstract

There has been a growing conviction that the effects of large-scale industrial activity on the planet requires reconceptualizing the present epoch as the Anthropocene. This term places humans front and centre of the changing dynamics of the entire physical planetary system, of which climate change now appears to be the most significant. The idea of the Anthropocene rests on an overwhelming scientific consensus concerning a certain objective reality. This presents challenges to some quite different groups, each of which may be described in one way or another as anti-science.

First, and most obviously, are the climate change sceptics who reject the strong consensus among scientists and who often purvey what can only be called 'bad science'. Then there are those, committed to certain ideas (for example, those associated with deep ecology and romantic biology), who accept the scientific consensus on climate change on the one hand, but who reject an equally strong scientific consensus on other aspects of anthropogenic change, most notably in the field of transgenic engineering (genetic modification), on the other.

A third, quite different group consists of social theorists (political theorists among them) whose epistemological position rejects the notion of a real world 'out there' that exists and operates independently of our subjective beliefs. These varying forms of anti-science align with a particular political orientation. Using these groups as key reference points, this paper addresses the relationship between politics and science in the context of the greatest scientific *and* political challenge of our time – the Anthropocene – and how this relationship plays out in issues of theory, norms and methods in our discipline.



## Round Table Discussion

### Governing the Resource Boom

The global resources boom of the early 21st century is proving a vexatious challenge for policymakers, businesses and civil society. Surging international prices for energy, food and minerals, intensifying consumption driven by fast-growing developing economies, and emerging concerns about scarcity and ecological sustainability have driven a renewed interest in the governance of natural resources.

All resource governance systems carry distributional impacts – determining how the benefits and costs of resource extraction and consumption are shared in the global economy – and the resource boom has seen these governance systems become increasingly contested.

How, therefore, is resource governance being reconstituted in the contemporary world? What political actors are involved in contests over resource governance, what are the key issues at stake in governance contests, and how have their resolution benefited certain interest groups and not others?

This roundtable explored how key actors in resource governance, including governments, businesses and civil society groups, attempt to reshape governance systems in the wake of the resources boom.

Speakers addressed issues including the resources-development nexus, environmental politics, the role of business and NGOs, and the international dimensions of resource governance systems.

## Participants:



Professor Shaun Breslin, Warwick University



Professor Ronnie Lipschutz, University of California, Santa Cruz

Ronnie D. Lipschutz is Professor of Politics and Provost of College Eight at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Lipschutz received his PhD. in Energy and Resources from UC-Berkeley in 1987 and an SM in Physics from MIT in 1978. He has been a faculty member at UCSC since 1990.

Lipschutz's most recent books are *Political Economy, Capitalism and Popular Culture* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2010), *The Constitution of Imperium* (Paradigm, 2008) and *Globalization, Governmentality and Global Politics: Regulation for the Rest of Us?* (Routledge, 2005).

*Ronnie Lipschutz's participation in APSA 2013 was generously funded by an American government Cultural Grant, through the US Embassy in Canberra and the US Consulate-General in Perth.*

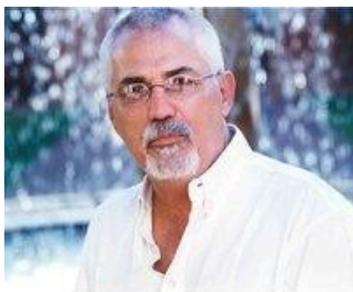


Ms Serena Lillywhite, Oxfam Australia

Serena Lillywhite is the Mining Advocacy Coordinator with Oxfam Australia. She has extensive expertise and experience in labour rights, supply chain management and business and human rights.

Serena is Australia's leading expert in the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. She is a regular speaker at the OECD, UN and ILO, and other international CSR platforms.

Serena holds a Masters in International Business from the University of Melbourne. She has lived and worked in China, and as a member of the OECD Watch network and Coordinating Committee, has delivered training and capacity building in Ghana (extractive sector), India (garment sector) and Thailand (business and human rights).



## Professor Peter Vale, University of Johannesburg

Peter Vale is an academic, public intellectual and journalist. He is Professor of Humanities at the University of Johannesburg, the Nelson Mandela Chair of Politics Emeritus, Rhodes University.

Vale is Member of Editorial Boards of academic journals in Argentina, Bangladesh, Britain, Lesotho, Portugal, Spain and South Africa. He was elected Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa. He is author of numerous books and articles on Southern African regional security and development.



## Sarah Hooper, The Chamber of Minerals and Energy

Sarah oversees the portfolio areas of Economics and Tax, People Strategies and the Resources Industry Training Council, Media and Membership. Sarah also has responsibility for the Eastern, North Eastern, South West and Mid West regional operations.

Sarah Hooper is an experienced Australian diplomat and foreign policy bureaucrat who has worked across a range of high profile bilateral relationships and multilateral foreign and strategic policy concerns. She has worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the International Division of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and in the Office of National Assessments.

Sarah has represented the Australian Government with postings in Indonesia and in India and earlier worked within the Government of Brunei on an official exchange program. Prior to joining CME in February 2013, Sarah headed the Political and Economic Section of the Australian High Commission in New Delhi, India Resources and energy have

been dominant themes throughout her career to date, and were a major component of her work most recently in India as Australia strengthened its partnership with India and built a more central role for Australia in India's energy security strategies.

Sarah has an Asian Studies degree from the Australian National University and a Graduate Diploma in Foreign Affairs and Trade, also from the ANU.



Chair  
**Dr Jeffrey Wilson, Murdoch University**

Jeffrey Wilson is a Fellow of the Asia Research Centre and Lecturer in Politics and International Studies in the School of Management and Governance. He received his PhD in International Relations from the Australian National University in 2011.

In 2012 he was awarded the inaugural Boyer Prize by the Australian Institute of International Affairs. He has published widely on the political economy of resource security in Asia, and is the author of *Governing Global Production: Resource Networks in the Asia-Pacific Steel Industry* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).





## Conference Streams

1. International Relations
2. Public Policy
3. Australian Politics
4. Political Theory
5. Asian Politics
6. Comparative Politics
7. Natural Resources and Politics

# Post Graduate Workshop

## Post Graduate Workshop, Sunday 29 September, 2013

APSA conferences have been proven to be a great opportunity for postgraduate students, emerging scholars and academics to present their work, meet fellow researchers in their disciplines and build networks.

As a part of the APSA annual conference at Murdoch University in Perth, Ryl Harrison and Birte Ahlhaus, the 2013 APSA Post Graduate Representatives, in conjunction with the APSA Conference Organizing Committee, hosted a one day postgraduate seminar on Sunday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2013. The seminar consisted of a number of workshops aimed at network building, research and funding information and career development. The seminar was free of charge and catered for.

### **Guest Speaker: Winthrop Professor CARMEN LAWRENCE**



After training as a research psychologist at the University of Western Australia and lecturing in a number of Australian universities, Dr Lawrence entered politics in 1986, serving at both State and Federal levels for 21 years. She was at various times W.A Minister for Education and Aboriginal affairs and was the first woman Premier and Treasurer of a State government. She shifted to Federal politics in 1994 when she was elected as the Member for Fremantle and was appointed Minister for Health and Human Services and Minister assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women. She has held various portfolios in Opposition, including Indigenous Affairs, Environment, Industry and Innovation and was elected national President of the Labor Party in 2004. She retired from politics in 2007. She is now Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Change in the School of Psychology at the University of Western Australia and Chair of the Australian Heritage Council.

# Peer Reviewed Full Papers

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Sadiya	Akram	ANZSOG, University of Canberra
Sadiya	Akram	ANZSOG, University of Canberra
Mamadou Diouma	Bah	University of Waikato
Sara	Bice	The University of Melbourne
Scott	Brenton	University of Melbourne
Scott	Brenton	University of Melbourne
Stephanie	Brookes	Monash University
Rachel	Busbridge	La Trobe University
Andrew	Carr	Australian National University
Tarek	Chamkhi	Murdoch University
Lisette	Collins	University of Sydney
Trajce	Cvetkovski	University of Queensland
Alexander	Davis	University of Adelaide
Alexander	Davis	University of Adelaide
John	Doyle	La Trobe University
Nicholas	Faulkner	Monash University
Erin	Fitz-Henry	University of Melbourne
Fred	Gale	University of Tasmania
John	Hardy	Australian National University
Madeleine	Hartley	University of Western Australia
Luke	Heemsbergen	University of Melbourne
Lisa	Hill	University of Adelaide
Stewart	Jackson	University of Sydney
Paul	Kemp	University of Adelaide
Erlyn Rachelle	Macarayan	The University of Queensland
Terry	Macdonald	University of Melbourne
Graham	Maddox	University of New England
David	Malet	The University of Melbourne
David	Malet	The University of Melbourne
Louisa	Mamouney	Australian National University
Rob	Manwaring	Flinders University
Aaron	Martin	University of Melbourne
Wayne	McLean	University of Tasmania
Leandrit	Mehmeti	University of South Australia
Hudson	Mtegha	University of the Witwatersrand
Rebekah	Nagel	University of South Australia
Tu	Nguyen	The University of Adelaide
Avery	Poole	The University of Melbourne
Lesley	Pruitt	University of Melbourne
Shaun	Ratcliff	Monash University
Shaun	Ratcliff	Monash University
John	Rolls	University of South Australia
Christopher	Sadleir	University of Canberra
Raul	Sanchez Urribarri	La Trobe University
Robert	Simms	Flinders University

Bruce	Stone	University of Western Australia
Marija	Taflaga	Australian National University
Kim	Tatam	University of New England
John	Tate	University of Newcastle
Jeannette	Taylor	The University of Western Australia
Bruce	Tranter	University of Tasmania
Chin-Kuei	Tsui	University of Otago
Joanna	Vince	University of Tasmania
Rizwan	Zeb	Centre for Muslim States & Societies, Political Science & International Relation
Nuzhat E Ibrat	Syeda	University of Adelaide