As Dean of the Australian National University College of Asia and the Pacific I am delighted to welcome you to the ANU Mongolia Institute – one of our newest and most successful Regional Institutes.

Our Regional Institutes are where we:

- Profile our research and teaching that is focused on countries and regions of strategic significance to the university and where ANU can claim national or international pre-eminence
- Provide an easily identifiable entry point for external bodies seeking regional expertise
- Partner with national and international funding bodies and government agencies
- Facilitate the interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration that is a signature strength of the ANU.

Under Professor Narangoa Li’s leadership, the ANU Mongolia Institute is poised to become a world hub for Mongolian Studies, and we invite you to join this dynamic intellectual network.

Professor Veronica L. Taylor
Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
The Mongolian Studies Centre (a pre-cursor to the ANU Mongolia Institute) was founded at the Australian National University following Mongolian Prime Minister Batbold’s official visit to Australia in 2011. It was established in order to provide a focus for the growing interest in Mongolia at the Australian National University and in Australia more generally.

Historical relations between Australia and Mongolia have been sparse, but in recent years links between the two countries have grown in importance. Australia has significant involvement in the Mongolian mining and energy sectors; both countries have been involved in seeking solutions to security problems in Northeast Asia; and an increasing number of young Mongolians obtain secondary and university education in Australia. Both countries have expertise to share in handling climatic extremes, in animal husbandry and in heritage archaeology. The expansion of the Mongol empire under Chinggis Khan in the 13th century remains a pivotal event in world history which continues to capture the imagination of Australians.
The ANU Mongolia Institute was founded in 2013 to promote Mongolian Studies, not only at the ANU but also throughout Australia. Prior to this time, unlike in Europe, US and Japan, there was no institutionalised history of Mongolian Studies in Australia or, more broadly, in the Southern Hemisphere.

The vision of the Institute is to establish the ANU as a global centre for Mongolian Studies supported and driven by the rapid increase in business, trade and cultural exchange between Mongolia and Australia and the strong Australian interest in Mongolia. The Institute provides a formal source of advice and information on Mongolia for the University, government organisations and the broader public to the extent that such advice and information is not available through existing channels.

Since its establishment, the ANU Mongolia Institute has hosted guest researchers working on Mongolia, organised Biannual Mongolia Studies Open Conferences, regular Mongolia Updates and occasional seminars on Mongolian topics. The Institute also provides a support network for Australian researchers on Mongolia and promotes active participation by government, business and the public in the Institute’s activities.

**Achievements**

Since its establishment, the ANU Mongolia Institute has:

- hosted and coordinated three Mongolian Studies open conferences, two Mongolia Updates and occasional seminars;
- published Mongolian Studies newsletters two to three times per year;
- welcomed Visiting Fellows from across Australia along with Japan, Germany, the United States, China and Europe;
- supported postgraduate students with a strong focus on Mongolia: four PhD graduates to date and current PhD students working on thesis with Mongolia related topics (more interesting if you actually list the topic);
- developed a Mongolian Studies online forum (to launch in 2016).

Professor Li Narangoa,  
Director, ANU Mongolia Institute
A ‘One Health’ Approach: health and wellbeing on the grassland steppes of Mongolia

Many of the widespread diseases in humans are contracted through contact with other animals, particularly those living in close proximity with humans. In the western medical tradition, treating animals through veterinary care has been quite separate from human medical care, indicative of the epistemological divide between nature and culture. There is, however, growing recognition of the need for a ‘One Health’ approach, accepting that disease and illness readily cross the species barrier as zoonoses.

Combating zoonotic diseases requires the treatment of both humans and animals, a strategy that has been employed within Traditional Mongolian Medicine (TMM) for hundreds, even thousands of years.

The focus of the project is on the ways in which Mongolian herders use One Health to treat their families and their herd animals, as a means of understanding pastoralist knowledge toward other beings in a changing and increasingly Anthropogenic landscape.

Part of a Mongolian herding family’s daily existence is in the treatment of illnesses, of family members and herd animals, using a vast array of techniques and an impressive knowledge of local medicinal plants. Of significance are herders’ ideas about the causation of illness and their subsequent preventative measures. This research is important in retaining some of the wealth of medicinal knowledge that is passed on from one generation of herders to another in Mongolia.

Dr Natasha Fijn and Professor Li Narangoa

Public Participation in Scientific Research Project on well-water quality in Inner Mongolia

In May 2014, a fieldwork trip in a small village in the Eastern Ujimchín banner of Inner Mongolia revealed concerns of the local herders regarding the quality of their well water which they thought may be polluted by nearby industrial wastewater.

In mid 2015, Dr Uchirilt began to plan and implement an action research project to explore the quality of the well water. One of the main strategies in this project is to address villagers’ concerns by connecting local herders with professional scientists and let them interact to discover which wells have problems and identify the nature of these problems. The basic idea of this action research project is similar to other established models of Public Participation in Scientific Research Project.

Dr Uchirilt
Mongolian language courses

Mongolian 1A
(MNGL1002/6002)
This course introduces students to Modern Mongolian in the Cyrillic script and to basic Mongolian pronunciation and grammar, along with knowledge of Mongolian culture and traditions. Students learn to conduct everyday conversations and use Mongolian’s main cases and verb tenses in conversation and writing.

Mongolian 1B
(MNGL1003/6003)
Expands the competencies mastered in MONG1002. Students use the main cases and finite verb tenses, as well as some modals (converbs) and simple compound sentences. Students also learn about Mongolian culture by reading simple folktales.

Mongolia studies courses

The Mongol Empire in World History
(ASIA2016)
This course examines the Mongol empire, its rapid rise and sudden decline, comparatively in the global context of empire-building and the management of complex imperial structures. It assesses the long-term impacts of the Mongol eruption on politics, religion and popular culture.

From Mongols to Manchus:
Inner Asian Frontiers 1400-1900
(ASIA2314)
This course introduces the key themes driving over five hundred years of Inner Asian frontier history from the 15th century to the start of the 20th. In this course, Inner Asia spans a region from the Korean Peninsula in the east to the Pamirs in the west and from Lake Baikal in the north to the Himalayas in the south.
STUDENT PROFILES

Mark Pennini
B Arts and B Laws (Hons), Graduated 2015

Mark Pennini was awarded a Mongolia Fellowship under the Australian Government’s New Colombo Plan. This fellowship enabled Mark to live in Ulaanbaatar from July to December 2015, completing this Honours Thesis via the National University of Mongolia. During the fellowship, he undertook intermediate language training and completed two internships at the Judicial General Council of Mongolia and in the Legal Department of Max Group, one of Mongolia’s largest and fastest-growing corporate groups.

The Mongolia Fellowship allowed Mark to gather evidence for his Honours Thesis in the field, greatly improving the quality of his research. It also gave him an opportunity to enhance his Mongolian language skills, which eased his transition to life in Mongolia. The fieldwork opened up various Mongolian and Australian academic, legal, business and government networks. Mark notes that “Mongolia may be an unconventional destination, but it is an exciting and rapidly-developing country that offers so much for academics, business people and travellers. The New Colombo Plan Fellowship was a wonderful experience. It enabled me to complete my Honours thesis on Mongolian female judges, undertake two internships and to further develop my knowledge of the Mongolian language.”

Mark Pennini’s Honours Thesis in law was supervised by Professor Kim Rubenstein and sought to answer why so many women (67%) serve in the Mongolian judiciary and what their experiences of gender were in their role as judges. Because of this ‘feminised’ setting, and because of the unique circumstances of women in Mongolian history and culture, Mongolia offers a rich site for the exploration of gender and the judiciary.

Enkh-Orshikh Khurlee
Master of National Security Policy

When Mongolian national Enkh-Orshikh Khurlee was looking to pursue postgraduate studies in Australia, he says the Master of National Security Policy at ANU was an obvious choice.

“I had to weigh university, location, and most importantly, the program. Fortunately it was not a tough call.

“The National Security College was offering a program that was exactly what I was looking for with a broad, multidisciplinary understanding of national security and it was at the ANU which was already known for its international standing and reputation.”

Accompanied by his family, Enkh-Orshikh relocated to Canberra—which he describes as “a terrific city to live in. The quiet, safe and family friendly nature of the city is perfectly suited to me. It not only houses some great museums and galleries, but is also large enough to create a vibrant and multicultural atmosphere.”

In addition to undertaking his Masters degree at ANU, Enkh-Orshikh has also been working with the ANU Mongolia Institute.

“I would not have thought before coming here that I could also contribute to the efforts of Mongolian studies at the same time as studying. This is one of the perks of studying in a major university.”

Enkh-Orshikh specialises in Asia-Pacific studies with a focus on strategic studies, cyber security and North-east Asia. Prior to making the move to Canberra, Enkh-Orshikh worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Parliament Secretariat of Mongolia.

“I am confident that my study here will contribute enormously to my professional and personal development goal to become a career diplomat with expertise in national security and policy-making.”
Spencer Haines
PhD candidate, School of Culture, History and Language

Spencer Haines is a PhD student who has been granted an Australian Postgraduate Award to research Mongolian history at the School of Culture, History & Language, in the College of Asia and the Pacific. Spencer has a Master of International Affairs (2007) from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Political Science and Peace & Conflict Studies (2003) from the University of Waterloo in Canada. Prior to beginning this PhD program, Spencer was employed as a Foreign Service Officer with the Government of Canada and held overseas diplomatic postings in Russia and India. He has also previously lived and worked in Canada, South Korea, Taiwan, Ukraine and Egypt, as well as having travelled extensively throughout Mongolia and Central Asia.

Spencer’s doctoral research focuses on the larger dynamics of ‘state’ power and nomadic relations in Inner Asian history during the 17th and 18th centuries. Specifically, he will provide a fresh examination of the Zunghar Empire’s diplomatic interactions with the Khalkha Mongols and Kazakhs in times of war and peace and then assess its impact. Spencer has a strong passion and interest in the history, politics and culture of Mongolia and Kazakhstan.

Jonathan Ratcliffe
PhD candidate, School of Culture, History and Language

Jonathan Ratcliffe is a doctoral candidate at the ANU whose studies concern the role of the oral and written epic in the history and politics of twentieth century Buryat Mongol identity. His PhD thesis, which he has just started, centers upon the history and reception of the cycles surrounding the hero Geser taken down from the Ekhirit-Bulagat Buryat uligershin (epic reciter) Manshut Imegenov in the early twentieth century. Jonathan’s academic interests include history, anthropology, mythology, philology, linguistics, epic narrative, folklore and philosophy. He has a bachelor degree with honors from La Trobe University in Philosophy and Religious studies and an MA from Monash University in Classics. In 2006 he studied at the National University of Mongolia for six months as part of its program for foreign students. After many years away from Mongolian studies he is glad to be returning to this field again.
ANU ALUMNI IN MONGOLIA

With more than 80 students from Mongolia having graduated from the ANU, there is a strong ANU Alumni connection in and with Mongolia. The reputation and prestige of the ANU and the quality of education offered by the University attracted many AusAid awardees from Mongolia to study at the ANU. The majority of these were graduate students who came from public service and went on to achieve successes in their future careers.

Some ANU alumni in Mongolia include:

> Tsogtbaatar Damdin (ANU College of Law) has held a ministerial position twice in the last four years and is currently a secretary to MPP—a leading political party in Mongolia;

> Tugsbilguun Tumurkhuleg (Master of International Relations, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific) and has had a successful career as a diplomat and was, most recently, appointed as the Mongolian Ambassador to Thailand;

> Dashdorj Zorigt (Master in International Relations, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific) is a former Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy of Mongolia and Member of Parliament.
The ANU Mongolian Students’ Association (MoSA) was established in late 2009 and provides networking and advocacy for Mongolian students studying at ANU, particularly assisting students who are new to Canberra with settling in to the city and the University.

Its purpose and activities also include:

- working as advocates for Mongolian students’ interests at the ANU;
- providing a platform where Mongolian students can meet and discuss issues of concern;
- organising activities for and on behalf of students; and
- establishing links and networks with the wider Australian community and the Mongolian community in Canberra.
Professor Li Narangoa
Director, ANU Mongolia Institute

Li Narangoa is a Professor of Pacific and Asian History. She specialises in modern Japanese and Mongolian history, culture and politics. Before joining the ANU, she was researcher at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (Copenhagen). She teaches courses in Mongolian history, Japanese history and language, as well as broader thematic courses including ‘Lies, Conspiracy and Propaganda’. Her current research interests include Mongolian history, identity and cities, Japan’s relations with other Asian countries, Japan’s colonial history, religion and military. Her interests extend to broader themes related to borders and empires, and international relations in Northeast Asia.

Dr Igor de Rachewiltz

Dr de Rachewiltz is a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Pacific and Asian History, and a Visiting Professor, Department of Oriental Studies, University of Rome (‘La Sapienza’). His main research interests lie in the political and cultural history of China and Mongolia in the 13th and 14th centuries, East-West political and cultural contacts, especially in the 13th and 14th centuries, Sino-Mongolian philology, and The Secret History of the Mongols. Dr de Rachewiltz has published dozens of important works on Mongolian history, including a full English translation of the 13th century Mongolian text known as The Secret History of the Mongols.

Dr Christian Sorace

Dr Christian Sorace is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian Centre on China in the World at the Australian National University. His new research project is a cross-national comparison of planned urban redevelopment, demolition, and relocation in Mongolia and China. He is specifically interested in the local state plans to redevelop Ulaanbaatar’s ger districts, and how local ger residents encounter and perceive the state. He is also interested in the fate of Mongolia’s communist-era planned cities, like Choibalsan, that no longer have viable political economic support. Additionally, he would like to research the political aesthetics of Mongolia’s communist-era cinema.
Dr Natasha Fijn

Natasha completed her thesis entitled *Living with Herds in Mongolia* within the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at the ANU in 2008. She combined a written thesis with an observational film, entitled *Khangai Herds*. The focus of this research was on the processes of animal domestication. During her fieldwork in 2005 she lived with two extended herding families and herds of horses, cattle (including yak), sheep and goats in the Khangai mountains of Mongolia. A monograph on this research, ‘Living with Herds: human-animal coexistence in Mongolia’ was published by Cambridge University Press in 2011. She has edited a number of themed journal issues on multispecies and observational filmmaking and is currently multimedia review editor for The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology. Natasha has been hosted overseas as a Visiting Fellow at the Laboratoire d’Anthropologie Sociale in Paris, the University of Aarhus in Denmark, and the University of Aberdeen in the UK in relation to her research on animal domestication and human-animal relations. She has recently been part of a research team collaborating on ‘Arctic Domestication in the Era of the Anthropocene’ at the Centre for Advanced Research in Oslo.

Professor Robert Cribb

Robert Cribb is Professor of Asian History. His research focuses on Indonesia, but he also has strong interests in Mongolia. He recently completed, with Li Narangoa, the *Historical Atlas of Northeast Asia 1590-2010* (Columbia). His research focuses on mass violence and its legacies, the historical contingency of state borders, national identity, and the impact of environmental issues on politics.
Professor John Powers

John Powers is Professor of Asian Studies in the College of Asia and the Pacific and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He has published seventeen books and more than eighty articles and book chapters, mainly on Tibetan history and religion. He is currently the Chief Investigator on an international research project funded by the Singapore Ministry of Education and the Australian Research Council focused on a Tibetan polemical debate that has involved many of the greatest minds of Tibet and Mongolia. Another current research project is focused on Tibet’s rivers as ground zero for global climate change.

Associate Professor McComas Taylor

McComas Taylor’s research lies at the intersection of contemporary critical theory and classical Sanskrit narrative literature. His primary focus is on the construction of ‘true’ discourse in the Foucauldian sense in the Sanskrit, Hindu episteme. His initial work in this area was on the narrative fables in the Patitatantra cycle. The primary output of this was The Fall of the Indigo Jackal (SUNY Press, 2007). His most recent book, Seven Days of Nectar, is a study of contemporary oral performance of the Sanskrit classic, the Bhāgavata Purāṇa. It will be published by Oxford University Press in July 2016. He is also interested in exploring the influence of Sanskrit narrative fables in Inner Asia, including Mongolia.

Associate Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt is a Senior Fellow in the Resource, Environment & Development Program at the Crawford School of Public Policy. She is one of the leading global experts in critical research on the length and breadth of gender and community livelihoods in two areas of natural resources: water and extractive industries. A significant aspect of her engagement has been with finding ways to reframe the debates around informal, artisanal and small-scale extractive practices by bringing the livelihoods of mineral resource-dependent communities of the Global South to the forefront of global debates on political ecology and political economy of mineral resources. Her engagement with Mongolia dates back to 2007, when she spent three weeks in the country, studying artisanal and small-scale mining by the nomadic herders. This extended into a research project, ‘Supporting women during the mining boom in Mongolia’, jointly held with colleagues from the University of Queensland, and funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade.

Affiliated scholars

Dr David Brophy
Dr Baiying Borjigin
Dr Gesar Temur
Dr Ariun-Erdene Bayarjargal
Dr Tangudai Burenjargal
Dr Maria Rost Rublee
Dr Michael Hope
Dr Holly Barcus

PhD scholars

Narantuya Ganbat
Jonathan Ratcliffe
Tenzin Ringpapontsang
Spencer Haines
Jonathan Ratcliff