

Dr Kearrin Sims

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EMPLOYMENT

- *Research*

August 2017 – Present

Research Fellow

Cairns Institute, James Cook University

August 2016 – August 2017

Adjunct Fellow

Humanitarian and Development Research Initiative (HADRI)

School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University

March 2015 – December 2017

Research Associate

Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University.

May 2013 – November 2013

Research Officer

Australian Council of Learned Academies: 'Asia Literacy: Language and Beyond'.

- *Lecturing and Teaching*

January 2017 - Present

Program Convenor and Lecturer, Master of Global Development Studies

College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University

July 2016 – November 2016

Course sub-coordinator and Sessional Tutor in Social Science

School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University

Course: Working With Communities

June 2016 – November 2016

Academic Tutor Indigenous Student Engagement Scheme

Wollotuka Institute

University of Newcastle

March 2013 – November 2016

Sessional Tutor in Social Sciences and Education

School of Humanities and Social Science, School of Education, University of Newcastle

Courses: Society and Culture: A Sociological Introduction; Schooling, Identity and Society

March 2012 – June 2012

Sessional Tutor in Social Sciences

School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University

Course: Everyday Life

ACADEMIC SERVICE**2019 – Present**

Review Editor, International Relations Portfolio, *Asian Studies Review*

2019 – Present

Development Studies Association of Australia (DSAA) Executive Committee Member

2019

RDI Network 2019 Conference Coordinating Committee: 'Leadership for Inclusive Development', La Trobe University.

2019

RDI Steering Committee for production of 'Enhancing Research Impact in International Development Toolkit.'

2018 – Present

Chair JCU Sustainable Development Working Group.

2017 – Present

Association of Mainland Southeast Asia Scholars (AMSEAS) Treasurer and founding board member.

2017

Mid-term review panel for La Trobe University Master of International Development (MID) program mid-term review.

2017 – Present

Founding member JCU Tropical Urban Design (TUD) Lab.

2017 – Present

JCU Australian Council For International Development (ACFID) Affiliate Membership founder and point-of-contact.

May 2012 – May 2013

Postgraduate Liaison Officer, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University.

PhD SUPERVISION

2019 – Present: Kelly-Ann O’Bryan – ‘Children’s perceptions of future ecological and social environments and the factors that shape them: A synthesis of the literature’.

EDUCATION

**2010 – 2016 Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University: PhD
(Development Studies)**

Research Thesis: ‘Laos In the Asian Century: Development, Displacement and Chinese Regionalism’

2009 The University of Sydney: Bachelor of Arts, (Hons, Sociology)

First Class Honours

2005 – 2007 The University of Newcastle: Bachelor of Arts, Double Major

International Relations and Sociology

GRANTS

- **2019:** Tablelands Regional Council Monitoring and Evaluation Grant, \$45,000.
- **2018:** James Cook University *Rising Star* Grant, \$14,760 AUD.
- **2018:** James Cook University, Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science (TESS) Research Flagship Start-Up funding, \$5,000 AUD.
- **2017:** James Cook University End-User Grant, \$6,000 AUD + end user contributions of \$5,000 AUD.
- **2017:** Invitation to Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) working party to establish sub-grouping Association of Mainland Southeast Asia Scholars (AMSEAS). Funded by The University of Sydney, Sydney Southeast Asia Studies Centre (SSEAC), \$750 AUD.
- **2017:** James Cook University, College of Science and Engineering Startup Grant, \$6,260 AUD.
- **2010:** Western Sydney University PhD ‘Top-up’ Scholarship Award, \$30,000 AUD.
- **2010:** Western Sydney University Priority Postgraduate Research Award, \$72,000 AUD.

AWARDS

- 2017 William J. Holland Prize for outstanding paper published in *Pacific Affairs*.
- 2015 runner up best graduate student paper in *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*.

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

- **Books**

Sims, K., Banks, N., Engel, S., Hodge, P., Makuwira, J., Nakamura, N., Rigg, J., Salamanca, A. Yeophantong, P., (eds.), (forthcoming) *Routledge Handbook of Global Development*, London, Routledge.

- **Journal Special Issue**

Sims, Kearnin (2018) 'Teaching Development Studies in Times of Change', *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, 59(2). (SJR 0.84; 31 H Index; Q1 SCIMago)

- **Refereed Journal Articles**

Sims, Kearnin (forthcoming) 'Risk navigation for Thinking and Working Politically: the work and disappearance of Sombath Somphone', *Development Policy Review*

Sims, Kearnin (forthcoming) 'Infrastructure Violence and Retroliberal Development: Connectivity and Dispossession in Laos', *Third World Quarterly*,

Po, Sovinda and Sims, Kearnin (forthcoming) 'The Myth of Non-Interference: Chinese Foreign Policy in Cambodia', *Asian Studies Review*,

Roy, Sajal and Sims, Kearnin (2020) 'Climate change mitigation and adaptation in Bangladesh: The need for community-based approaches', *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*,

Sims, Kearnin (2018) 'Introduction: Teaching Development Studies in Times of Change', *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, Special Issue, 59(2): 147-158. (SJR 0.84; 31 H Index; Q1 SCIMago)

Sims, Kearnin. (2017) 'Casino Enclaves, Development and Poverty Alleviation in Laos', *Pacific Affairs*, 90(4): 675-699. – William L. Holland Prize (SJR 0.3; 28 H Index; Q2 SCIMago)

Sims, Kearnin. (2015) 'Culture, community-oriented learning and the post-2015 development agenda: a view from Laos', *Third World Quarterly*, 36(10): 1922-1943. (SJR 1.04; 66 H Index; Q1 SCIMago).

Sims, Kearnin. (2015) 'The Asian Development Bank and the production of poverty: Neoliberalism, technocratic modernization and land dispossession in the Greater Mekong Subregion', *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 36(1): 112-126. – Runner-up best graduate student paper prize (SJR 1.06; 33 H Index; Q1 SCIMago).

Howe, Brendan and Sims, Kearnin. (2011) 'Human Security and Development in Lao PDR: A responsibility to provide and protect', *Asian Survey*, 51(2): 333-355. (SJR 0.41; 37 H Index; Q2).

- **Refereed Book Chapters**

Sims, Kearnin (2020) 'The ADB and AIIB: Cooperation, Competition and Contestation' in Max Kelly, Viktor Jakupec and Jonathan J. Makuwira, *Rethinking Multilateralism in Foreign Aid: Beyond the Neoliberal Hegemony*, Routledge, UK., pp. 145-159.

Sims, Kearnin (2020) 'China's Development Contribution to Laos: Beyond Connectivity and Growth', in Don Emmerson (ed.), *The Deer and the Dragon: Southeast Asia and China in the 21st Century*, Stanford University Press, California, pp. 271-298.

Sims, Kearnin (2018), 'More growth, less freedom: Charting international development pathways in Lao PDR', in Brendan Howe (ed.), *The Securitization of Governance in Asia*, Palgrave Macmillan, UK, pp. 127-150.

Sims, Kearnin and Winter, Tim. (2016) 'In the slipstream of development: World Heritage and development-induced displacement in Laos', in Colin Long and Sophia Labadi (eds.), *Urban Heritage, Development and Sustainability: International Frameworks, National and Local Governance*, Routledge, UK, pp. 23-36.

Sims, Kearnin. (2015) 'Uneven geographies of transnational capitalism in Laos', in Jeb Sprague (ed.), *Globalization and Transnational Capitalism in Asia and Oceania*, Routledge, UK, pp. 199-213.

- **Published Working Papers**

Sims, Kearnin. (2013) 'Raising Homes for a Rising Asia: Development-induced-displacement and Regionalism in Laos', LEWI Working Paper Series, David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University.

- **Research Reports/Policy Documents**

Sims, Kearnin. (2017) 'James Cook University Submission: Australian Government First Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda', Delivered RDI Network, 19 October 2017.

Sims, Kearnin. (2015) 'Laos in 2016: Sustainable Development and the Work of Sombath Somphone', Focus on the Global South.

Sims, Kearnin. (2013) 'La Chine Dans La Région Du Mékong', Asia Centre, Paris.

Sims, Kearnin. (2009) 'Consolidating Post-Conflict Development: Unexploded Ordnance and the Legacy of Conflict in Laos', Geneva International Centre For Humanitarian Demining: Honours Thesis re-published as a report.

- **Book Reviews**

Sims, Kearnin (2017) 'Review of V. Boute and V. Pholsena (eds.) "Changing Lives in Laos: Society, Politics and Culture in a Post-Socialist State"', *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, 39(3): 583-586.

Sims, Kearnin. (2016) 'Review of S.P. Stobbe "Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in Laos"', *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, 38(2): 324 - 326.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- **Keynote/Plenary Presentations**

Sims, Kearnin (2020) 'Laos Update', Politics in Action 2020: Updates from Southeast Asia, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, The University of Sydney, Sydney.

Sims, Kearnin (2018) 'Five reasons why it is a great time to be a Development Studies ECR', Development Studies in Australia today: reflections, challenges and opportunities, UNSW Global Development Month Plenary session, UNSW, Sydney.

- **Invited/Funded Presentations**

Sims, Kearnin (2020), 'Crossing the River by Feeling the Stones: Alternative Imaginaries of China's Presence in Southeast Asia in Contemporary Contexts', ARI-NUS Workshop, 13-14 August, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.

Sims, Kearnin (2019), 'Unpacking China's 'presence' in Northern Laos', AMSEAS Seminar, 21 June, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, Sydney University.

Sims, Kearnin. (2017), 'Mekong Land Research Forum Annual Workshop', Regional Center for Social Sciences and Sustainable Development, 22 July, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai.

Sims, Kearnin. (2016) 'An analysis of political oppression and human rights abuses in Laos', Conference on New Authoritarianism in Asia, 3-5 March, Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Ewha Womans University, Seoul.

Sims, Kearnin. (2015) 'Gambling on the future: Casino enclaves and the making of modern Laos', Workshop on Beyond the State's Reach: Casino Spaces as Enclaves of Development or Lawlessness?, International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) and University of Macau, Centre for Khmer Studies, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Sims, Kearnin. (2013) 'New (?) geographies of a rising Asia: The Greater Mekong Subregion', Flying University of Transnational Humanities (FUTH) Workshop on New Regionalisms, 16-19 September, Hanyang University and Research Academy Leipzig, Leipzig University, Germany.

Sims, Kearnin. (2013) 'Raising homes for a rising Asia: Development-induced-displacement and regionalism in Laos', Workshop on Where is Home? Place, Belonging and Citizenship in the Asian Century, 22-23 March, International Institute for Asian Studies and Hong Kong Baptist University, HKBU, Hong Kong.

Sims, Kearnin. (2012), 'Bridging the gap: Academic research and development institutions', Workshop on Cultures, Histories, Institutions: Knowledge Practices and Professional Encounters, 9 May, Advanced Cultural Studies Institute of Sweden (AC SIS), Linköping University, Sweden.

Sims, Kearnin. (2012), 'Borders of Knowledge', Flying University of Transnational Humanities (FUTH) Workshop, Hanyang University, Seoul.

Sims, Kearnin. (2011) 'Transformations of the Human Landscape in Southeast Asia', Jointly funded by Kyoto University, Chulalongkorn University and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

- **Selected Papers**

Sims, Kearrin & Roy, Sajal (2020), 'Climate change mitigation and adaptation in Bangladesh: The need for community-based approaches', December 2-4, Massey University, New Zealand.

Sims, Kearrin (2020), 'Fast Connectivity and Slow Violence: Contesting 'Connectivity as Development' Narratives', Development Studies Association of Australia Inaugural Conference, February 6-7, Deakin University, Melbourne

Sims, Kearrin (2020), 'Roundtable: Embedding Teaching and Learning into Australia and New Zealand's International Development Community of Practice', Development Studies Association of Australia Inaugural Conference, February 6-7, Deakin University, Melbourne

Sims, Kearrin (2019), 'Shifting Boundaries of Development and Activism: The Case of Sombath Somphone', Modes of activism under authoritarian governance regimes in the Asia-Pacific, November 14-15, Macquarie University, Sydney.

Sims, Kearrin (2019), 'International Service Learning Best Practice', PechaKucha Cairns, Tanks Art Centre, Cairns.

Sims, Kearrin (2019), 'Cultivating Future Inclusive Leaders: International Service Learning for Development', RDI Network Conference, 12-13 June, La Trobe University, Melbourne.

Sims, Kearrin (2018), '(Re)Negotiating the Belt-and-Road, ASEAN, and Greater Mekong Subregion', 22nd Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA), 3-5 July, Sydney, Australia.

Sims, Kearrin (2018), 'To Hell and Back: From Good Intentions to Good Outcomes', Pedagogy in Practice: how we teach in Development Studies', 22-24 June, Murdoch University, Perth, Australia.

Sims, Kearrin (2017), 'Development Cooperation with Chinese Characteristics: A view from Laos', International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS) 10, 20-23 July, Chiang Mai International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Sims, Kearrin (2017), 'Introduction – Rethinking Development Pedagogy and Practice', Rethinking Development Pedagogy and Practice Symposium, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, 23- 25 June, 2017.

Sims, Kearrin. (2014), 'Asia's new aid donors and the knowledge of development', Knowledge/Culture/Economy Conference, 03-05 November, Western Sydney University, Australia.

Sims, Kearrin. (2013), 'Laos in the Asian century: Connection, displacement and abjection', Network for the Critical Study of Global Capitalism 2013 Conference: Global Capitalism in Asia and Oceania, 28-29 March, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.

Sims, Kearrin. (2012), 'Stitching together a seamless Asia: Regional connectivity in the Greater Mekong Subregion', 19th Biennial Conference, Asian Studies Association of Australia, 12-14 July, Western Sydney University, Australia

Sims, Kearnin. (2011), 'Expanding regionalism in the Greater Mekong Subregion: Challenges and concerns for the Lao PDR', 1st International Conference on International Relations and Development, May 19-20, Thammasat University, Thailand.

Sims, Kearnin. (2009), 'The inhibitory effects of unexploded ordnance in post-conflict Laos: Informal economies', The 3rd Australasian Conference on the Economics and Politics of War and Peace, June 26-27, The University of Sydney, Australia.

Sims, Kearnin. (2009), 'Consolidating post-conflict development: Unexploded ordnance and the legacy of conflict in Laos', The University of Sydney Sociology and Social Policy Spring Research Conference, November 05, The University of Sydney, Australia.

MEDIA ARTICLES AND APPEARANCES

Sims, Kearnin (2020), Ballooning debt draws Laos further into China's orbit, *East Asia Forum*,

Sims, Kearnin (2020), Looking Ahead: Laos in 2020 and Beyond, *New Mandala*, 22 May
<https://www.newmandala.org/looking-ahead-laos-in-2020-and-beyond/>

Sims, Kearnin (2020), JCU and the SDGs, *Plan B with Carli*, Bumma Bippera Radio

Sims, Kearnin (2019), Cooperation and Contestation between the ADB and AIIB, *East Asia Forum*, October 24, <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2019/10/24/cooperation-and-contestation-between-the-adb-and-aiib/>

Smales, Philippa and Sims, Kearnin (2019), Launch of the Development Studies Association of Australia, *DevPolicy Blog*, May 30, <https://www.devpolicy.org/launch-of-the-development-studies-association-of-australia-20190530/>

Sims, Kearnin (2019) Can the Land of a Million Elephants Survive the Belt and Road?, *The Diplomat*, January 03, <https://thediplomat.com/2019/01/can-the-land-of-a-million-elephants-survive-the-belt-and-road/>

Sims, Kearnin (2018) 'How we teach in Development Studies', RDI News, <https://rdinetwork.org.au/events/pedagogy-in-practice-how-we-teach-in-development-studies/>

Sims, Kearnin. (2017) 'Economic Growth and Development in Lao PDR: Who Pays for Progress?', *Human Rights Defender*, University of New South Wales, (26)2.

Sims, Kearnin. (2017), 'New Visions for International Development Education', RDI News, <https://rdinetwork.org.au/news/new-visions-international-development-education/>

Sims, Kearnin. (2016) 'Is Laos' ASEAN Chairmanship a Threat to Southeast Asian Regionalism?', *The Diplomat*, <http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/is-laos-asean-chairmanship-a-threat-to-southeast-asian-regionalism/>

Sims, Kearnin. (2014) 'Missing Sombath a Test for ASEAN', *Asian Currents*, Asian Studies Association of Australia, June, 14-15.

Sims, Kearnin. (2014) 'The Disappeared', Southeast Asia Globe Magazine, June, 66-67.

Sims, Kearnin. (2013) 'The Case of Sombath Somphone', New Mandala.

<http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/newmandala/2013/10/02/the-case-of-sombath-somphone/>

Sims, Kearnin, and Arvanitakis, James. (2013) 'Why A Missing Lao Activist Should Concern Us All', New Matilda, <https://newmatilda.com/2013/09/11/why-missing-lao-activist-should-concern-us-all>

Sims, Kearnin. (2013) 'Playing Dirty: Everyday Laotians are Finding that Joining the Asian Century comes with Hidden Costs', Southeast Asia Globe Magazine, March, 38-41.

Sims, Kearnin. (2012) 'Finding Laos a place in the Asian Century', Asian Currents, Asian Studies Association of Australia, October, 10-12

Institute for Culture and Society blog contributor: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/ics/news_and_media/blog

CONFERENCE CONVENING AND COORDINATION

- Principal Convenor

- 2017 – Rethinking Development Pedagogy and Practice Symposium, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University, June 23- 25, 2017.

- Conference Committee

- 2019 – RDI Network Annual Conference: 'Leadership for Inclusive Development', La Trobe University, Melbourne.
- 2019 – Association of Mainland Southeast Asian Scholars (AMSEAS) Seminar: 'China's Presence in Mainland Southeast Asia', Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, Sydney University.

- Conference Support and Panel Convening

- 2014: Conference support and administration for the Knowledge/Culture/Economy International Conference, 03-05 November, Western Sydney University, Australia.
- 2013: Repeat Chair and Respondent for ICS Stepping Stones Seminar Series
- 2012: Panel Convener: Conceptualising Connectivity in an Asian Century: Regional Integration and Transnational Exchanges in the Greater Mekong Subregion, 19th Biennial Conference, Australian Association of Asian Studies, 12-14 July, Western Sydney University, Australia
- 2012: Conference support for 19th Biennial Conference, Asian Studies Association of Australia, 12-14 July, Western Sydney University, Australia.
- 2012: Presented at Institute for Culture and Society Stepping Stones Seminar Series
Institute Research Blog

PEER REVIEW

I am an active peer reviewer for the journals *World Development*; *Geoforum*; *Mobilities*; *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*; *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*; *Tourism and Hospitality Research*; *Asian Journal of Social Science*; *International Journal of Social Quality*. I have also peer reviewed monograph proposals for Routledge and a full monograph for Palgrave MacMillan.

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Ongoing: Consultation, fundraising, document editing and project management for the Moonlight Foundation Nepal.
- Ongoing: Assisted Sombath Initiative efforts to advocate on abducted Lao community development worker Sombath Somphone.
- 2013: Assisted in establishment of a medical centre in rural Nepal.
- 2011: Mentor for Tibetan refugees living in Australia.
- 2011: Staffed public outreach stalls for Burma Campaign Australia.
- 2009: Distributed films for the Tibetan Photo Project.
- 2008: Completed Certificate 1 in Active Volunteering with Conservation Volunteers Australia.
- 2006: Coordinated Community Action Group for the Australia Tibet Council.

REFEREES

Professor Jonathan Rigg
Chair in Human Geography
Bristol University
+44 (0) 117 3318388, jonathan.rigg@bristol.ac.uk

Professor James Arvanitakis
Head of the Academy and Professor of Humanities
School of Humanities and Communication Arts, the University of Western Sydney
+(61 2) 9678 7059, J.Arvanitakis@uws.edu.au

Professor Tim Winter
Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education
University of Western Australia
tim.winter@uwa.edu.au

Professor Ien Ang
Professor Cultural Research
Institute for Culture and Society, the University of Western Sydney
+(61 2) 9685 9634, ien.ang@uws.edu.au

Professor Marcus Lane
Deputy Vice Chancellor Tropical Environments and Societies
Division of Tropical Environments and Societies, James Cook University
+(61 7) 478 15039, Marcus.lane@jcu.edu.au

APPENDIX: PERSONAL REFERENCES AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Postgraduate Liaison Officer

Many thanks for having encouraged me to participate and creating a very professional and friendly atmosphere during the seminar. - Best wishes, Valeria

Thanks so much for your positive feedback and encouragement - I really like the way you chaired the session and think it is a really valuable seminar series. -Warmest regards, Cali

I would like to thank you for making me feel welcome at ICS and for making my start last year much, much easier. - Christiane

Research Assistant

Kearrin was diligent in his work, and very capably took the initiative to track down required or potentially useful sources... He regularly updated me on the progress of a research assignment, as well as on troubleshooting... Kearrin's reports were clearly written, and references carefully compiled... It was a pleasure to have worked with Kearrin. – Dr. Yasmin Tambiah, Project Manager, 'Asia Literacy: Language and Beyond', ACOLA, Securing Australia's Future Program.

Student Feedback

I couldn't have asked for a better tutor. I have learned a great deal from your method of tutoring, as well as picking up some good tips with my writing and gaining a more open understanding of the intricacies of sociology.

Everyone is encouraged to interact and involve themselves in the discussions and this is great! Its my favourite class.

I like the manner in which this teacher handles the class, he is very approachable and teaches in a natural style. I particularly like the discussions and it seems to be going a lot better now that the majority of students are participating. Overall he keeps interest in the subject and really knows the subject well, but not only that gets students to engage in it and appears to be very interested in the topic himself.

Clear and concise with explaining concepts. Easy to understand, engaging. Friendly and knowledgeable.

Good coverage of class content, engaging discussions and helpful tutor.

He is great at stimulating class discussions and encourages us all to speak openly and without judgement.

Made the class and concepts relevant to the course and easy to understand.

Motivated class discussions. Marks fairly. Respected all colleagues thoughts and opinions.

I like that when a person gives an opinion that is less than correct, Kearrin is so respectful while trying to challenge them to think, we get side-tracked (or he gently steers us away) and then after everyone's forgotten about it, 15 minutes later the discussion is somehow on that topic again but this time people are coming up with answers that make more sense. But it's like no one realises that we are going completely against what that person said at the start.