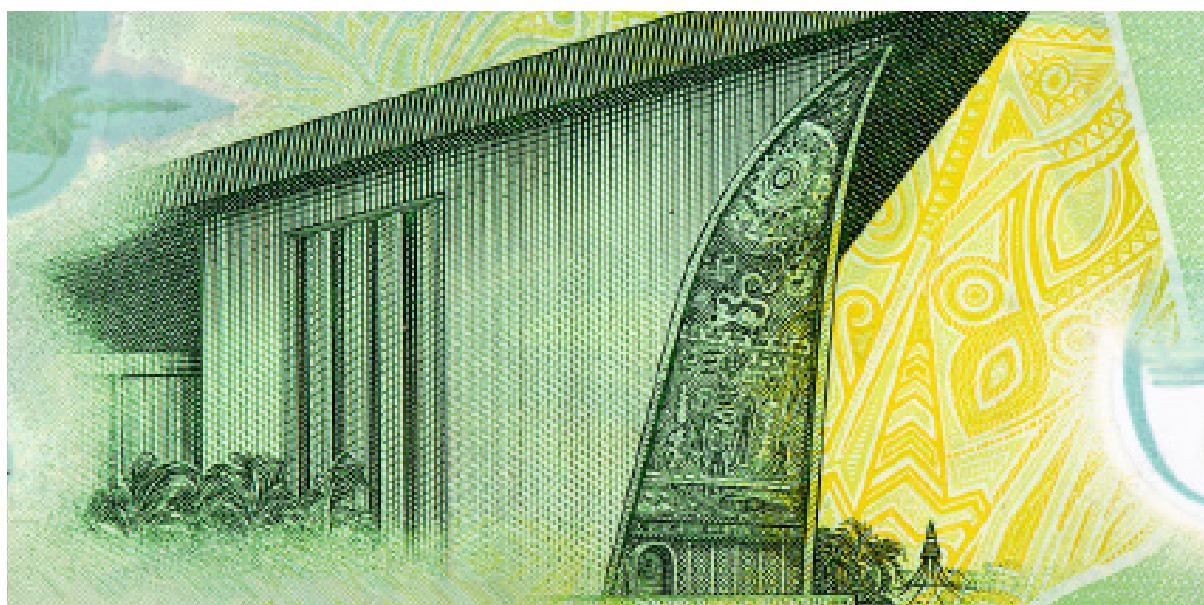




# The political economy of Papua New Guinea: grand growth theory meets a case study

Friday 5 September

12:30 - 1:30pm Port Moresby / Canberra



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The idea that institutions are the fundamental determinant of economic growth and development has been mainstream since the 1990s. A variety of institutional theories have been developed, but there has been little independent testing of them against country case studies.

This paper provides such a test by developing a political economy model to explain growth and development outcomes in Papua New Guinea and comparing it to the major institutional (grand) theories of growth. These theories are grouped into two types, one stressing the importance of the nature of politics (a la Acemoglu and Robinson) for development and one the importance of violence (a la North, Wallis and Weingast).

I argue that in PNG both the nature of its politics and problems relating to violence are important for understanding growth, and that one cannot be reduced to the other. In particular, I argue that PNG is in a “hyperpolitical, insecurity trap”. I use the PNG case to argue that grand growth theories are not useful, making the case instead that we should focus on country-specific models.

## Speaker

**Stephen Howes**

Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

## Locations

1. MBA Suite (SBPP building, UPNG)
2. Seminar room 1 (WEH Stanner, ANU)
3. Online via Zoom

## Register

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