



Australia's foreign aid dilemma

Wednesday 23 August 12.30–1.30pm

Speaker

Jack Corbett

Associate Professor, University of
Southampton, UK

Location

Brindabella Theatre

Level 2, JG Crawford Building 132
Lennox Crossing, ANU

Registration at
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This book launch is free and open to the
public.



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The Australian aid program faces a fundamental dilemma: how, in the absence of deep popular support, should it generate the political legitimacy required to safeguard its budget and administering institutions?

A new book, *Australia's Foreign Aid Dilemma: Humanitarian Aspirations Confront Democratic Legitimacy*, tells the story of the actors who have grappled with this question over 40 years. It draws on extensive interviews and archival material to uncover how 'court politics' shapes both aid policy and administration. The lesson for scholars and practitioners is that any holistic understanding of the development enterprise must account for the complex relationship between the aid program of individual governments and the domestic political and bureaucratic contexts in which it is embedded. If the way funding is administered shapes development outcomes, then understanding the 'court politics' of aid matters.

Join us for the Canberra launch of the book with author Jack Corbett.

Presented by

Development Policy
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Jack Corbett is Associate Professor of Politics at the University of Southampton, UK; Honorary Associate Professor at The Australian National University's Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs; and Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Governance and Public Policy, Griffith University, Australia.

He is the author of *Being Political Leadership and Democracy in the Pacific Islands* (2015, University of Hawaii Press); *Australia's Foreign Aid Dilemma: Humanitarian Aspirations Confront Democratic Legitimacy* (2017, Routledge); and with Wouter Veenendaal, *Democracy in Small States: Why It Can Persist Against the Odds* (forthcoming, Oxford University Press).