PUBLIC LECTURE

Christianity and the Shaping of Vanuatu's Social and Political Development

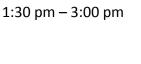


RELIGION AND SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTRE / PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES GROUP

Speaker

Professor Matthew Clark Deakin University

Date and Time Friday 24th April, 2015



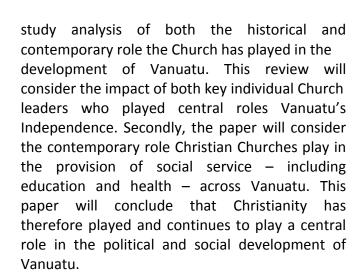
Venue **Bankstown Campus** Building 23.G.40



By COB Friday 17th April, 2015

Abstract

The Pacific island state of Vanuatu has been considerably shaped by its Christian heritage. Indeed, the role of the various Christian Churches has been pivotal in the development and sustenance of Vanuatu prior to and since its Independence. These Churches include Anglican, Catholic, Pentecostal and evangelical denominations. Missionaries and later local Church leaders were involved directly in Independence movements and shaped the legal and social infrastructure of this nation. This involvement and influence has continued to the present. This paper will consider the role the Church has played in the development of Vanuatu. Firstly, this paper will present case



Biography

Professor Matthew Clarke is Head of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Deakin University (Australia). Matthew has worked in the international development sector for more than 20 years. His research interests include aid effectiveness, the Millennium Development Goals, HIV and AIDS and disability-inclusive development. Much of this work has focussed on the Pacific region. More recently Matthew has focussed on the intersection between religion and development. His books in this area include Development and Religion: Theology and Practice, Islam and Development: Exploring the Invisible Aid Economy, and Handbook of Research on Religion and Development.