



# Otonomi bilong wanem? Autonomy for what?: interfaces between identity, development, and decentralisation in Papua New Guinea

Friday, 27 September 12:30 - 1:30pm



ENB, Papua New Guinea | Adobe Stock | #278853825

This presentation delves into the intricate social identities in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and focuses on the challenges and negotiations between dynamic local identities with state politics and development policies and processes in PNG. Using tok stori methodology, the research explores relationships between multiple layers of identities and state development policies of redistribution of resources, and their role as drivers in movements for greater decentralisation via special autonomy in the subnational island jurisdictions of East New Britain Province (ENB) and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).

The location-specific focus of this research seeks to understand what Indigenous peoples in these provinces hope to gain through special autonomy and the dynamics between local identities and government development. This examination of the interfaces between identities, development, and decentralisation and how they are strategized within provincial and state governments will shed light on the contemporary dynamics of the state of PNG as we ask the question, “autonomy for what?”.

## Speaker

**James Reid Stiefvater**  
PhD Candidate, Massey University

## Locations

1. MBA Suite (SBPP building, UPNG)
2. Seminar room 7 (Crawford School, ANU)
3. Online via Zoom

## Register

[events.devpolicy.org/20240927](https://events.devpolicy.org/20240927)

## Contact

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