

## **Asia Pacific transformations group sponsored session**

### **Agrarian rural transformations**

**Convenor: Philip Hirsch (University of Sydney)**

Since Hart, Turton et al published their seminal *Agrarian Transformations* two decades ago,<sup>1</sup> much has continued to transform rural parts of Southeast Asia and the wider Asia-Pacific countryside. Geographers were notable for their absence in that volume. The context of transformation has moved far beyond the intensification of rice agriculture and the political economy of changing production relations associated with green revolution technologies and class processes that underpinned earlier studies. Globalisation, environmental processes and movements, de-agrarianisation, shifts from rural production to consumption landscapes, decentralised governance and many other frames of reference have shaped the ways in which rural change is examined. Many of these themes and contexts are inherently geographical, and geographers have moved centre-stage in studies of the changing Asian countryside. This panel invites papers that explore parallel shifts in conceptual, methodological and empirical understandings of agrarian and rural transformations in the Asia-Pacific region.

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<sup>1</sup> Hart, G., A. Turton, et al., Eds. (1989). *Agrarian transformations: local processes and the state in Southeast Asia*. Berkeley, University of California Press.