



DAsia Week Special Guest

KYUSHU UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE for ASIAN and OCEANIAN STUDIES KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Ms. Sharon Bignell

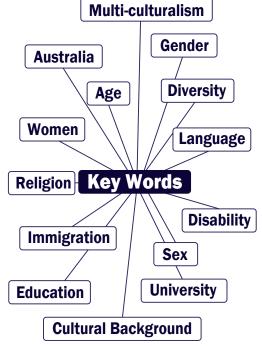
Australian Consul and Trade Commissioner, Osaka

Sharon Bignell commenced as Australian Consul and Trade Commissioner, Osaka in January 2021. Sharon has a background in international education, where she was previously Associate Director, International at Bond University from 2018 to 2020, and prior to that, was part of Griffith University's international team from 2014 to 2017, responsible for recruiting and supporting students from Japan, Korea, Mongolia and the Philippines. Sharon has also held a number of other education-related roles in Australia, Japan and the UK. Sharon speaks Japanese and had lived in Japan for approximately 10 years prior to joining the Australian Consulate-General in Osaka, including undertaking exchange programs at high school in Okayama and university in Sapporo, working as a Coordinator for International Relations on the JET Programme in Mie, and working for the Australian Embassy in Tokyo. A graduate of the University of Technology Sydney majoring in International Business, Marketing and Japanese, Sharon also holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Macquarie University.

Diversity in the Australian context

Special Introduction: Prof. Toshiyuki Kono (Executive Vice President, Senior Vice President, Kyushu University) Chair: Prof. Scott Valentine (Research Promotion Director of Q-AOS)

Australia is a multicultural country, home to some of the world's oldest continuous cultures, as well as Australians who identify with more than 300 ancestries and languages. More than one in four Australians were born overseas and approximately 50 percent have at least one parent who was born overseas. What are the opportunities and challenges arising from this culturally diverse population? In this seminar, I will explain the population make-up of Australia today and what diversity means in the Australian context, and then give some practical examples of how diversity is reflected in Australian government policy and workplace practices. I will then use the university sector as a case study to explain how international students are one of the key pillars of Australia's Migration Program and important contributors to the continued growth and success of Australia's economy and society.



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