



Australia Awards



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Guest Lecture

'Navigating Politics and Policymaking as an Emerging Leader'

By: Professor Gaby Ramia

Friday, 20 February 2026

1:45pm to 4:00pm (Jakarta time)

Indonesian graduates and scholars of Australian tertiary institutions who are interested in attending this event, please RSVP by Wednesday, 18 February, via this link: <http://oz.link/rsvpGL20FEB>

**Due to the limited availability of places, early registration is recommended. A link to this event will be shared with you after registration.*

Lecture overview

Public policy is shaped within complex political, institutional and social environments, where decisions emerge from competing interests, governance arrangements and evolving public needs. Understanding how power interacts between institutions and stakeholders is central to analysing how policy choices are formed and implemented, particularly in the context of globalisation, regulatory change, and increasing social diversity.

Building on this foundation, this lecture provides a back-to-basics introduction to public policy, outlining key frameworks and terminology used in policy analysis and development. It examines the political settings in which policymakers operate, including formal institutions, governance networks, and stakeholder interests that influence agenda setting and resource allocation. These themes align closely with the University of Sydney's School of Social and Political Sciences' focus on governance and public administration, and encourage emerging leaders to critically reflect on how political dynamics and institutional design shape policy outcomes.

This lecture further explores stakeholder engagement and the growing complexity of contemporary policymaking, with a focus on how governments and organisations collaborate with communities, industry, non-governmental organisations and citizens. Drawing on contemporary examples and research-informed practice, it highlights the importance of transparency, trust and responsiveness, while addressing the challenge of balancing social and economic priorities. Key concepts such as policy coherence, stakeholder trade-offs, governance networks and public-private collaboration are introduced to equip participants with the tools to analyse policy decisions and navigate complex public decision-making.

Gaby Ramia is a Professor of Policy and Society and Chair of the Discipline of Government and International Relations in the School of Social and Political Sciences at The University of Sydney. He also co-leads the Work, Education and Welfare Theme at the Sydney Centre for Healthy Societies. Prof. Ramia's research focuses on public and social policy and governance, with particular emphasis on work, employment, international education and wellbeing.

Prof. Ramia has served as a chief investigator on multiple Australian Research Council-funded projects examining governance and social networks, the employability and wellbeing of long-term unemployed people, social security in China, international education and the welfare and housing of international students and policy making in a developing country setting. His work reflects a strong commitment to policy-relevant, interdisciplinary research with both national and international reach.

In addition to his research leadership, Prof. Ramia has held a wide range of senior leadership roles at the University of Sydney and has taught extensively across policy-related fields, including public administration, public policy and international policy. He has also delivered bespoke executive and professional development programmes for public servants in Australia and for overseas-based officials from across Asia and Africa.



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