

How Do you Govern Afghanistan?

SYNOPSIS

Subnational governance is a major focus of statebuilding, counterinsurgency, and development efforts in Afghanistan. Afghanistan's centralised state contrasts with its remote and diverse hinterlands, and its fragile and conflict-degraded administration struggles to overcome capacity-constraints, a complex aid environment, corruption and inefficiency to deliver basic services and development. Worsening insecurity and declining legitimacy make this challenge even more pressing as Afghanistan faces a second round of national elections, and a new US administration considers its strategy. An analysis of the pitfalls and successes in trying to extend governance subnationally over the past seven years provides some lessons for the future; foremost among these is to consider the urgent demands of facing continuing conflict and legitimacy within a more coherent framework and achievable vision for subnational state building in Afghanistan.



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Speaker: **Dr. Hamish Nixon**
The World Bank, Afghanistan



Chair: Tess del-Rosario, Senior Research Fellow,
Centre on Asia and Globalisation,
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Date: Thursday, 26 February 2009

Time: 12.15 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Venue: Seminar Room 3-1, Level 3, Manasseh Meyer
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
469C Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259772

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Hamish Nixon has been working in Afghanistan on subnational governance issues for four years. He is the subnational governance specialist at the Afghanistan office of the World Bank, and before that was the governance researcher at the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, the foremost independent research organization in Afghanistan. He holds a Ph.D. in comparative politics from St. Anthony's College, Oxford. He has also researched post-conflict political development in Cambodia and El Salvador, as well as supervised and monitored post-conflict elections in the Balkans, the Middle East, Central America, and Southeast Asia.



Photo by David Axe

For those interested in attending, please contact Siti at 6516 4202/ 6134 or email sppsr@nus.edu.sg
This is a brown bag seminar and you are most welcome to bring your own packed lunch