

Jawun Research Centre

## SEMINAR SERIES

Communication, Health, and Social  
and Cultural Well-Being



### Seminar 33: Kidnapping and violence in the rainforests of PNG

This multidisciplinary seminar series aims to create a forum centered in Jawun. It is for researchers at CQUniversity, across Queensland and all over the world, as a forum to share their research findings and establish potential synergies, leading to joint grant applications, and partnerships that endeavour to advance knowledge in various disciplines.

#### Location

Room **3.06**, CQUniversity Cairns Campus  
Corner Abbott Street and Shields Street  
Or via [Zoom](#) Passcode: **041048**

#### Date and Time

**Wednesday 4 October 2023**  
3:00pm – 5:00pm Qld time  
Light refreshments provided

#### RSVP

JRC Administration via email: [jrc@cqu.edu.au](mailto:jrc@cqu.edu.au)  
or phone: 07 4923 2672

Further seminars upcoming in 2023 – [watch this space!](#)



#### Speaker

Dr Michael Wood,  
Adjunct Research Fellow at  
the Jawun Research Centre

Michael is an anthropologist  
whose research interests  
are primarily located in

Papua New Guinea. He is currently  
developing, **with Rosita Henry and Simon  
Foale**, a project on how patrol officers helped  
prepare PNG for Independence. He has  
recently worked on describing some of the  
cultural components of the World Heritage  
values of the Nakanai Ranges in New Britain  
and has finalised co-editing **with Anna Hayes  
and Rosita Henry** a collection of articles on  
the Chinese in PNG that will be published by  
ANU Press."

#### Abstract

This presentation is about recent  
developments in kidnapping in PNG. It will  
outline some of the often spectacular raids  
enacted largely by Huli into the lowland  
communities of the Western Province and  
Southern Highland Province. I will present  
some ideas on how kidnapping for ransom is  
a key part of the economics of such raids and  
then consider how we might understand how  
kidnapping is experienced by the perpetrators,  
victims and other actors. Having outlined  
some of the causes of the recent violence  
maybe we can start to talk about possible  
solutions?