

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JOHN MINNS



AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2010 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

DISCIPLINE

Politics

RESEARCH AREAS

International political economy
Developing economies
Latin American politics and international relation
Labour movement
Globalisation

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CURRENT ROLE

Associate Professor Minns is the Director of the Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies (ANCLAS). He is also an Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations at the Australian National University (ANU). Associate Professor Minns teaches international political economy and development in Latin America. His research focus is on the political economy of developing and newly industrialising countries. He has conducted research in Mexico, Taiwan and South Korea.

WHAT THE AWARD HAS MEANT

Public recognition of teaching

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2015** The VC's Award for Public Policy and Outreach;
- 2011** Invited to be the keynote speaker at the Bogata Conference;
Invited by V/C to join him on a promotional trip to Singapore, including an Alumni event;
- 2010** The VC's Award for Excellence in Teaching;
- 2008** Awarded the ANU Students' Association Award for teaching.

NETWORKS

Informal

BACKGROUND

John Minns studied Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) where his Honours thesis on Mexico was awarded the University Medal. He later completed a Doctorate at the same university. He is a former Fulbright Scholar, taken at Texas A&M University – Kingsville, USA. Before arriving at the ANU in 2003, he had been a lecturer at UNSW and at the University of Wollongong. In 2008, he won the ANU Students' Association Award for teaching. In 2009, he won the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Citation for Teaching. In 2010 he was awarded the ALTC Excellence in Teaching Award. He has been an Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Convenor of International Relations at the ANU.

IMPACT ON LEARNING & TEACHING

Over the years, Associate Professor Minns has trialled and reflected on different learning and teaching approaches. He believes that the process of applying for the Award crystallised his thinking about what he is doing and why. After the Australian Teacher of the Year Award in 2010, he was invited to present at interstate universities and at a number of formal and informal ANU events. He had more contact with the V/C after having received the Award, including travelling with him to Singapore to represent ANU at promotional and alumni events. He also noticed that he was sought out to provide advice particularly by early career academics. He was invited to sit on some ANU Learning and Teaching Committees, particularly looking at internal Teaching Award applications and review ALTC award applications.

IMPACT ON CAREER

Associate Professor Minns is an active and well known researcher in South American politics. He had well-established connections with the Government in the trade area and DFAT, and was invited to give the keynote at the 2011 Bogata Conference in South America. In his current role, he is encouraged to mentor others and take on some learning and teaching leadership responsibilities including judging internal awards. At the time of the Australian Teacher of the Year Award, his profile was raised within ANU through the various publicity channels and he did notice that he now had greater contact with the V/C as a result of the Award. The promotion to staff of a learning and teaching award winner was particularly noticed by the academic community as ANU is a very research focused university.