

About the Authors

Enrique Alonso-Población holds a PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the Universidad da Coruña (Spain). He has held senior advisory and managerial positions at several international organisations such as the U.N.'s Food and Aquaculture Organization (FAO) and INGOs, such as the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership.

Susanna Barnes is an assistant professor at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research focuses on customary forms of land tenure and natural resource management as well as customary approaches to health and well-being. She is co-author of an inter-disciplinary study of property relations and social resilience in Timor-Leste (2016, Routledge), and co-director of a visual methods collaboration *Holding Tightly: Custom and Healing in Timor-Leste*.

Laurentina 'Mica' Barreto Soares teaches international relations at the Department of International Relations of the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL). Mica completed her PhD at the Swinburne University of Technology, Australia in 2021. Her thesis focused on China-Timor-Leste relations. She earned her masters' degrees in Peace Studies from Notre Dame University in the USA in 2003 and International Development Studies from Ohio University in the USA in 2011.

Mina Bessa was born in Eluli in colonial times. She studied in Maubara. After 1975, Mina became an activist within the Timorese diaspora against the invasion and for the independence of her country. Just after the Referendum in 1999 she returned to Timor-Leste and started to recover and rebuild her family land and community.

Abel Boavida dos Santos has been a lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences, UNTL, since 2002 and completed his PhD at the Universidade do Porto, Portugal, in 2022. He has been involved in civil society organisations working on various community development and empowerment programs since 2000. From 2000-2006, he worked at the "Sa'he Institute for Liberation" (SIL) in Timor-Leste, an NGO founded by young activists involved in the struggle for independence in Timor-Leste. His area of specialisation is rural community development and peasant social movements. He has consulted on various research projects with international and national researchers including the Labour Mobility Assistance Program, Oxfam, Paz y Desarrollo and The Asia Foundation.

Brunna Crespi is an Anthropologist and Ethnogeographer. She is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac and a Research Associate at UMR 208 Paloc (IRD/MNHN). She has worked with Amazon rainforest local communities and her current research focuses on ASEI communities. She is interested in development-related conflicts, cultural resilience, identity in pluricultural areas, and territorial representations.

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Alex Grainger is a researcher and interdisciplinary social scientist whose research focusses on land in rural and urban settings and the extractive industries, particularly their influences and impacts on livelihoods, labour and local and regional environments. He is based in the UK.

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Sue Jackson is a professor and cultural geographer based at the Australian Rivers Institute at Griffith University. She has research interests in the social and cultural values associated with water, water governance, customary Indigenous resource rights, and capacity building in environmental management and planning.

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Ivete de Fatima Sarmento de Oliveira is currently working as Adviser for First Lady Office of Timor-Leste. She has a Master degree in social anthropology and development studies, SOAS, London University, UK. She is the founder of several women's organisations in Timor-Leste including Timor-Leste National Women's Network (Rede Feto) and FOKUPERS. She served as President of the National Women's Network 2009-2015 and worked as an adviser to the Government of Timor-Leste.

Lisa Palmer is professor and human geographer at the University of Melbourne who teaches and researches on human-environment relations and indigenous approaches to environmental and social governance. Her research takes a critical ecological approach and is focused on Timor-Leste and Indigenous Australia.

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Lucio Sousa is Assistant Professor in the Department of Social and Management Sciences at Universidade Aberta, and researcher at the Institute for the Study of Literature and Tradition (IELT-FCSH-NOVA). He has a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology with a thesis about ritual practice and social organisation in a Bunak community in Timor-Leste.

Jose "Josh" Trindade is currently working as Socio-Cultural Adviser at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Government of Timor-Leste. He has been an active advocate of addressing fundamental issues relating to culture, beliefs and traditional systems, and their relationship to nationalism, social solidarity and rule of law. He has written and published several anthropological papers on Timor-Leste.

Ann Wigglesworth has 30 years of experience in international development, working in Asia, the Pacific, Africa and Latin America, including seven years in Mozambique. She became involved in Timor-Leste in 1997 as Program Manager for Caritas Australia in Timor-Leste. She was awarded a doctorate in 2010 with a thesis focussing on the early years of Timor-Leste's independence through the perspectives of the younger generation. She has published articles on Timorese civil society, gender and labour migration. Her first book 'Activism and Aid: Young citizens' experiences of development and democracy in Timor-Leste' was published in 2016. She is a consultant, researcher, sessional lecturer and an Honorary Fellow at Victoria University, Melbourne.