

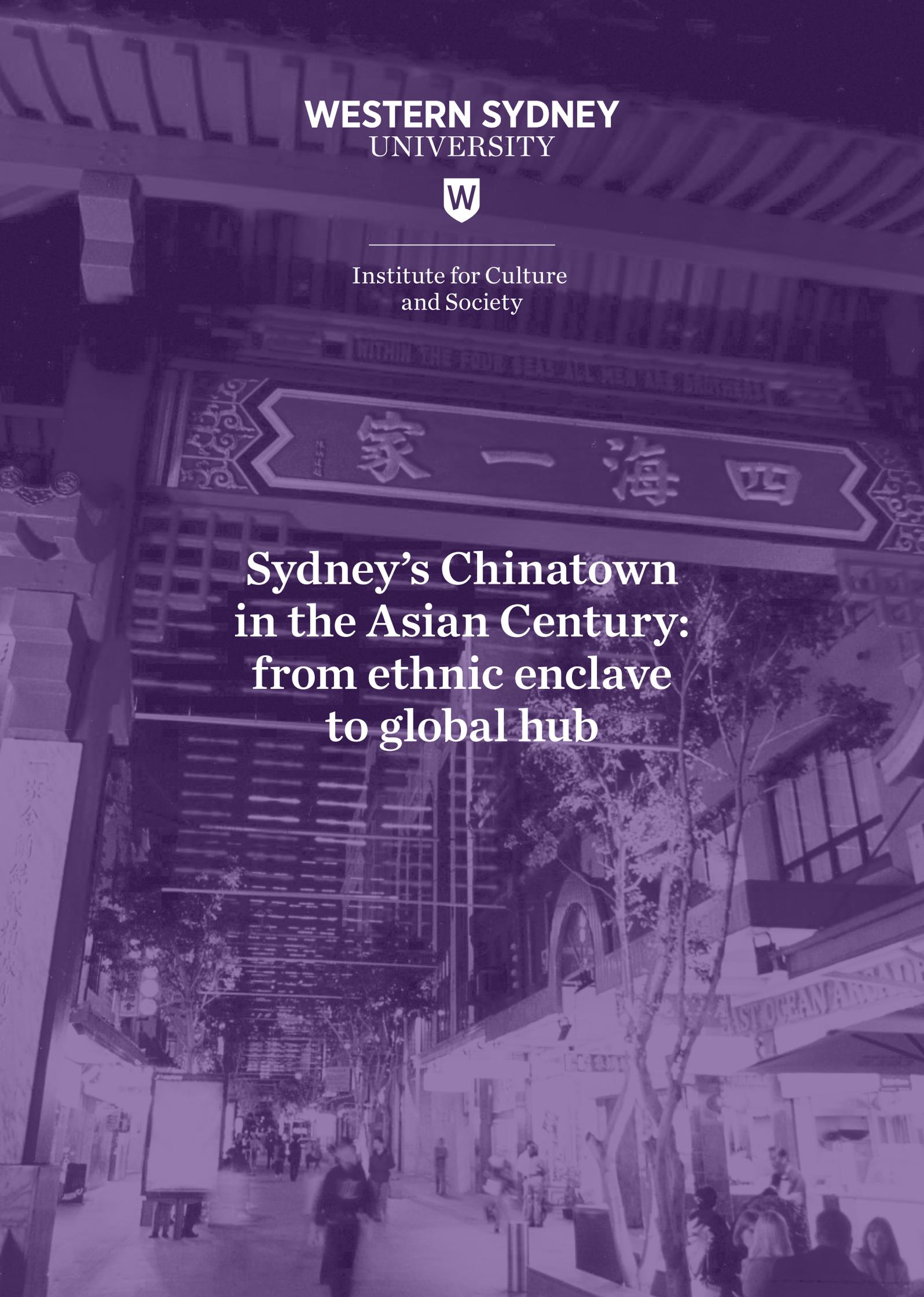
**WESTERN SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY**



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Institute for Culture  
and Society

**Sydney's Chinatown  
in the Asian Century:  
from ethnic enclave  
to global hub**



# The project

## This project is examining the transformation of Sydney's Chinatown in the 21st century.

'Chinatowns are a legacy of the early 20th century, when they were typically conceived as alien enclaves of the East in the West,' says Professor Ien Ang. 'However, the rapid pace of globalisation in the past few decades has brought significant changes over Chinatown, and it has become a "gateway" for intensified transnational flows of people, investments, goods and services between Australia and Asia. This project overturns the enclave paradigm in the study of Chinatowns and will document the transformation of Sydney's Chinatown into a transnational and hybrid economic and cultural space in the context of the rise of China.'

This project has three strands of research. First, a major survey will be undertaken as well as in-depth interviews with the business communities in Chinatown with the aim to examine their operations and networks within and beyond Chinatown, specifically with China and Asia more broadly. Second, an analysis of the City of Sydney Council's Chinatown Public Domain Plan and Public Art Plan to explore the significance of culture and heritage of Chinatown to different social groups.



Third, a detailed study of the planning, staging and choreography of the annual Chinese New Year Festival in order to look into the organisation politics among different participant groups and the event's contribution to closer relations between Australia and China. A final report will be produced in the final year to inform the government and other stakeholders about the latest transformation of Sydney's Chinatown and their implications.

By examining the role of Sydney's Chinatown as a bridge in supporting economic and cultural links between Australia and Asia, and the activities undertaken by the City of Sydney to enhance those links, research findings will shed light on Australia's complex and uneven integration within the Asia-Pacific region and reconceptualise multiculturalism on the study of an 'ethnic precinct' and 'Asianness'. The new knowledge generated from this study on the strategic management of cultural and ethnic diversity will also help government to design better policy to support urban development.

## RESEARCHERS

Professor Ien Ang  
Professor Donald McNeill  
Professor Kay Anderson  
Dr Alexandra Wong  
Steven Hillier

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## PARTNER

City of Sydney

## CONTACT

Dr Alexandra Wong  
a.wong@westernsydney.edu.au

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Left Photograph by Paul Patterson, City of Sydney.

In Between Two Worlds - laneway arts in Chinatown by Jason Wing.

## CONNECT WITH US

**Institute for Culture and Society**  
Western Sydney University

Locked Bag 1797  
Penrith NSW 2751 Australia

Building EM  
Parramatta South campus  
Corner of Victoria Road  
and James Ruse Drive  
Rydalmere NSW 2151 Australia

P: +61 2 9685 9600  
E: ics@westernsydney.edu.au  
W: westernsydney.edu.au/ics  
facebook.com/westsyduics  
twitter.com/westsyduics

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