

You are cordially invited to attend the launch of

A Good Life

Human rights and encounters with modernity

Mary Edmunds

To be launched by Professor Howard Morphy
Director, Research School of Humanities and the Arts
The Australian National University

When: 5.30pm Thursday 16 May 2013

Venue: Theatrette - Sir Roland Wilson Building (120)
McCoy Circuit

The Australian National University

RSVP: by 12 May to emma.arnold@anu.edu.au or 6125 6674

This book is a story. It's a story about ordinary people in very different parts of the world dealing with rapid change in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. It's about times of turbulent and violent social upheaval and rupture with the past. It's about modern times.

It's also about being human; what it is to be human in a modernising and globalising world; how, in responding to the circumstances of their times, different groups define, redefine, and attempt to put into practice their understandings of the good and of what constitutes a good life. And it's about how human rights have come to be not abstract universal principles but a practical source of consciousness and practice for real people. Drawing on the author's experience as an anthropologist, the book examines different groups over the last three decades of the twentieth century and the first years of the twenty-first: Thai factory workers over a period of two coups in the 1970s; Spanish nuns in the 1980s, in the aftermath of the Second Vatican Council and the end of the Franco dictatorship; Aboriginal people in the remote Pilbara region of Western Australia dealing with the impact of late colonialism and moves towards self-determination, from the 1980s to the present.



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