

Laura Burke is a postdoctoral researcher at ISA. Her work focuses on the intersections between health, environment, and conflict.

Laura was awarded her PhD in Social Anthropology in 2023 from the School of Anthropology and Conservation at the University of Kent, UK. Her doctoral thesis '[Reproducing Life After Conflict: Population, Prosperity and Potent Landscapes in Independent Timor-Leste](#)' explores how life is being rebuilt in a central highland community. Using a reproductive justice lens, it explores the contending approaches to reproducing the next generation in the wake of violent conflict. During her doctoral studies, Laura was a visiting scholar at the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL).

Her current project '[Germs and Ghosts: Transmissions of Health and Environment in Timor-Leste](#)' has been awarded FWF Disruptive Innovation Seed Funding to explore the intersections of health and environment in Timor-Leste in collaboration with community radio journalists. Through collaborative audio ethnography, this project examines health inequalities and indigenous health knowledge.

As a medical anthropologist, Laura's regional areas of interest include Southeast Asia and the Pacific, with a special focus on Timor-Leste and the Philippines. Before joining ISA, Laura worked as a post-doctoral researcher on projects related to health and environment, with a particular focus on addressing inequalities. She conducted ethnographic research for the '[Homelessness in the Countryside: A Hidden Crisis](#)' at Kent Law School (University of Kent), and collaborated with international partners for the Participatory Action Research project: '[Empowering Communities through University Partnerships in Public Health](#)' based at the centre for Cultures of Reproduction, Technologies and Health (CORTH, University of Sussex)