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Nichole holds a PhD in Development Sociology, a Master of Social Change and Development (Research) and a Bachelor of Creative Arts from University of Wollongong (UOW), and a Diploma of Education from University of Newcastle.

Her areas of research and academic writing broadly fall into three streams (1) civil society and volunteering for development; (2) aid and development, and (3) human security and food systems. Her expertise in development volunteering is internationally recognised and has resulted in her being invited to the United Nations Volunteers Headquarters, Bonn Germany in July 2015 to develop a vision and strategic global research agenda on 'volunteering for sustainable development'.

She is the author of the 2012 study *Neoliberalism, Development and Aid Volunteering* (Routledge) and her research has been published in *Journal of Sociology*, *Australian Journal of History and Politics*, *Australian Journal of Political Science*, *PORTAL*, *PLOS One*, *Pacific Dynamics*, and *Voluntas*.

Nichole worked in the private, government, community and aid sectors in Australia, Japan and Vietnam before becoming an academic. She continues to play an active role in issues of aid and development through advocacy work in her role as co-Chair of Academics Stand Against Poverty (ASAP), Oceania, an international community of academics confronting the rules and practices that perpetuate global poverty using evidence based research approaches.

Nichole is an editorial board member of *International Gramsci Journal* and a regular article and book reviewer for journals in the disciplines of sociology and politics.