



S. RAJARATNAM
SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

Research at RSiS

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**Institute of Defence and
Strategic Studies (IDSS)**



War in the Global Village: Transnational Challenges and the Struggle for Freedom of Action

Dr Pascal Vennesson *Professor*

“This book project is about the effects of transnational relations on the character of war. It is a study of state and non-state actors’ changing ability to wage war in their transnationalised environment from the early 1990s until the first decade of the 21st century. I explore why and how military prowess is affected by a global milieu refracted by a number of transnational actors, ideas and practices that apparently have little to do with force traditionally understood. Why and how does war-making change – if at all – under the influence of its transnational environment? Why and how do transnational actors and ideas shape or alter political leaders and strategic planners’ freedom of action?”

theme International Politics and Security
region Global
entity IDSS

Start : 01/01/2011

Duration: Multi-year

Maritime Security and Sea Lines of Communication — Research Paper

Ms Jane Chan *Research Fellow and Coordinator of the Maritime Security Programme*
Mr Collin Koh *Associate Research Fellow*

“The programme collaborates with the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) to work on topical maritime security issues relating to Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC) and chokepoints within IFC areas of interest. The project aims to better understand the threats and challenges in regional waters. It will consider national, regional and inter-regional maritime law enforcement capacity, best practices and cooperation.”

theme Country and Region Studies / Maritime Security
region South Asia / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/04/2012

Duration: Multi-year

Future Maritime Security Environment — Policy Paper and Workshop

Dr Sam Bateman *Senior Fellow and Adviser to the Maritime Security Programme*
Ms Jane Chan *Research Fellow and Coordinator of the Maritime Security Programme*

“The study will identify likely developments in the maritime security environment of Asia over the next decade, including shifts in the maritime balance of power and particular threats and challenges in the maritime domain. The study will take a comprehensive view of security, and will include issues such as the trends with international shipping, environmental protection and resource scarcity. The overall objective will be to identify the implications of these developments for the region and for Singapore. The geographical scope for the study will be the Indo-Pacific region.”

theme Country and Region Studies / Maritime Security / Conflict and Stability
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Indian Ocean Region
entity IDSS

Start : 01/04/2014

Duration: Multi-year

Japanese Security Policy: Military Crises, Threat Inflation and Security Policy Development

Dr Bhubhindar Singh *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Regional Security Architecture Programme*

“One of the most critical changes to Japan’s post-Cold War security policy has been the incorporation of the Japanese military, known as the Self-Defence Force (SDF), as a legitimate and important tool in its security policy practice. It has developed new roles both outside and within the U.S.-Japan alliance to contribute to regional/international security. The question is how has the Japanese security policymaking elite been able to bring about this critical change to the security policy practice in light of the domestic social and legal constraints that have traditionally prevented the expansion of Japan’s security role, in military terms, in regional and international affairs. This research introduces external military crises as a critical cause of this change in Japanese security policy. It argues that the security policymaking elite constructed or inflated elements of threat from an external military crisis as directly affecting both the international environment and Japan’s national security. This process allowed the security policymaking elite to circumvent the social and legal limitations and fulfil its role of a responsible and engaged actor in regional/international security. This study will focus on all military crises faced by Japan in the post-Cold War period.”

theme Country and Region Studies / International Politics and Security / Maritime Security
region East Asia and Asia
entity IDSS

Start : 01/06/2014

Duration: 162 weeks

From Subic Bay to Changi: Understanding the Relocation of United States’ Forces from the Philippines to Singapore (1991-92)

Dr Daniel Chua Wei Boon *Research Fellow*

“This is a historical research that examines the political and strategic considerations behind the closure of American bases in Subic Bay, the Philippines (1992), and the subsequent establishment of COMLOG WESTPAC in Singapore. By studying declassified diplomatic documents from archives in the U.S., Australia, Singapore and the Philippines, as well as interviewing former diplomats, this project attempts to provide deeper understanding of the principles and thinking behind decisions made by the three governments in relation to the episode.”

theme International Politics and Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/01/2015

Duration: 96 weeks

U.S. Military Withdrawal and Philippine Decolonisation, 1991-1992

Dr Daniel Chua Wei Boon *Research Fellow*

“This project studies the events leading to the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Philippines in 1991-1992. Adopting a historical approach, this research aims to produce an analysis where themes such as U.S. alliances in the Asia Pacific, decolonisation and the ending of the Cold War intersect.”

theme Country and Region Studies / International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/01/2015

Duration: 96 weeks

India and the Major Powers

Dr Rajesh Basrur *Professor and Coordinator of the South Asia Programme*

“The rise of Narendra Modi is widely held to represent the triumph of the Hindu right. However, this paper argues that there is no specifically Hindu content in Modi’s foreign policy toward the major powers. More broadly, the paper argues that the degree of difference between Modi’s government and the preceding regime under Manmohan Singh is marginal. This paper is part of a project on “India under Narendra Modi” organised by the University of Oxford and Boston University.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security
region South Asia
entity IDSS

Start : 27/01/2015

Duration: 104 weeks

The Future of the ADMM/ADMM-Plus and Defence Diplomacy in the Asia Pacific

Dr Bhubhinder Singh *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Regional Security Architecture Programme*
Mr Henrick Z. Tsjeng *Associate Research Fellow*
Mr Shawn Ho *Associate Research Fellow*

“With the 10th anniversary of the ADMM in 2016, the Regional Security Architecture Programme at RSIS is conducting a study on the evolution and future of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus processes. The objective of this project is to examine views on regional defence cooperation, and to envision the next phase of ADMM and ADMM-Plus co-operation. Specifically, this research project will provide perspectives and ideas on: (i) the roles of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus amidst geostrategic trends in the region and the current status of regional defence cooperation; (ii) the importance of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus in the defence strategies of regional countries and how these views have evolved since the inception of the forums; (iii) the strengths of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus, as well as challenges facing cooperation in the two forums; and (iv) the future direction and areas for defence cooperation in the region.”

theme International Politics and Security /
Regionalism and Multilateralism
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/04/2015

Duration: 104 weeks

Rising India: Status and Power

Dr Rajesh Basrur *Professor and Coordinator of the South Asia Programme*

“This monograph examines India’s quest for status as a distinctive aspiration that sometimes overlaps with its security objectives, but is in important respects, separate from it. In a more general framework, it provides a framework for analysing the linkages between status and power relevant to all states.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security
region South Asia
entity IDSS

Start : 01/06/2015

Duration: 104 weeks

The Hedging Prong in India's Evolving China Strategy

Dr Hoo Tiang Boon *Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the MSc (Asian Studies) Programme*

“This study addresses Sino-Indian relations from the alternative and under-engaged lenses of hedging, as opposed to the more conventional balancing and bandwagoning dichotomy. It analyses why and how, despite the general stable state of and progress in Sino-Indian relations, Delhi has pursued a hedging strategy against China. Under the present Modi administration, India has not deviated markedly from its traditionally prudent foreign policy approach towards China. Yet, there have been discernible changes and arguably, the main departure from the previous government's policy is a matter of degree: a more consolidated hedging component combined with a more robust engagement policy towards China. Like several countries in the Indo-Pacific confronted with the rise of China, India remains strategically ambivalent about China. This study is forthcoming in the *Journal of Contemporary China*.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia
entity IDSS

Start : 01/06/2015

Duration: 52 weeks

Regional Security Strategies of Middle Powers in the Asia Pacific

Dr Ralf Emmers *Associate Professor, Associate Dean and Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies*
Ms Sarah Teo *Associate Research Fellow*

“This book seeks to enrich the understandings of middle-power security strategies by examining countries that lack great-power capabilities, but still are able to assert their interests in specific areas of international affairs by virtue of the capabilities they possess. Conceptually, this book examines the behaviours of this group of middle powers, complementing the traditional focus on the great powers in field of Asia Pacific security. Empirically, the book responds to a vacuum in the existing literature, given the lack of comparison among Indonesia, South Korea, Australia and Vietnam as middle powers, by examining the motivations and strategies of these Asia Pacific countries as they navigate regional dynamics and seek to preserve their security interests.”

theme International Politics and Security /
Regionalism and Multilateralism
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity RSIS / IDSS / CMS

Start : 11/06/2015

Duration: 104 weeks

China's Omni-directional Periphery Diplomacy

Dr Hoo Tiang Boon *Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the MSc (Asian Studies) Programme*

“Given its size and the vast continental and maritime boundaries that it shares with its neighbours, China has always perceived its peripheries as fundamental to its security and well-being. This book examines China's evolving strategies towards its surrounding peripheries, devoting in particular to a detailed examination of President Xi Jinping's steering of Chinese periphery diplomacy. It argues that China pursues an ambitious, omnidirectional, multi-vectored diplomacy that emphasises the entire periphery region, and not just specific peripheries. In this view, Chinese regional policy cannot be properly and adequately understood without taking into account its full breath, substance and scope. Going beyond the usual focus on East Asia to also appraise the relationship with and management of its non-traditional peripheries of Central and South Asia, this book will address new developments in China's periphery strategy under Xi. This book is co-edited with Professor Wang Jianwei, Director of the Institute of Global and Public Affairs at the University of Macau.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security
region Central Asia / East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia
entity IDSS

Start : 01/10/2015

Duration: 52 weeks

Studying China's Assertiveness

Dr Hoo Tiang Boon *Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the MSc (Asian Studies) Programme*

“This study attempts to address the question of China’s perceived rising assertiveness in the Asia Pacific region. Speaking and contributing to literature and debate on the idea of China’s assertiveness, this paper suggests that China’s diplomacy in Asia can be better understood from the lenses of what is termed flexible assertiveness. Flexible assertiveness refers to a two-pronged foreign policy strategy that combines two particular aspects: one, a tougher and more uncompromising approach towards issues which China regards as its core interests or connecting to its core interests. The other is a more flexible and cooperative approach towards certain more negotiable interests that, while significant, are of relative secondary importance to Beijing.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific
entity IDSS

Start : 01/10/2015

Duration: 52 weeks

Running to a Standstill: The Debate Over Defence Reforms in India

Dr Anit Mukherjee *Assistant Professor*

“This is an intended book chapter in co-edited volume tentatively titled *India’s Emerging Strategic Challenges*. This chapter examines the process of defence reforms in India. In doing so, it describes the evolution in India’s higher defence organisation including post-Kargil defence reforms. The chapter also focuses on contemporary debates and analyses the functioning and recommendations of the Naresh Chandra Committee, which was created in 2011 to revisit the defence reforms process. It concludes by suggesting a roadmap for future defence reforms.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security
region South Asia
entity IDSS

Start : 01/12/2015

Duration: 39 weeks

Civil Society Development in China: Ideational Dimensions

Dr Fengshi Wu *Associate Professor*

“Based on a unique survey of activists and NGO practitioners, this research aims at understand and explain diversifying ideational orientations (including group identity, collective consciousness and political attitudes) of the growing realm of civil society in China. A politically informed and even charged civil society in China could have significant implication for Chinese politics as a whole in the coming decades. In contrast, without a mature civil society, the impact of political reforms in China can be limited. The research is at the stage of producing journal articles, book chapters and a book manuscript.”

theme General / Religion in Contemporary Society
region East Asia and Asia Pacific
entity IDSS

Start : 01/01/2016

Duration: 76 weeks

The Chimera of Clarity: Dominant Battlespace Awareness and the Pervasiveness of Fog and Friction

Dr Bernard Loo *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme*

“This article investigates a key claim of the Revolutions in Military Affairs literature – that pervasive sensing technologies will create a battlespace awareness asymmetry for the state able to leverage on such technologies. The result of this asymmetry – otherwise referred to as dominant battlespace awareness – will result in a situation where the state enjoying this advantage will operate in battles without the traditional phenomenon of fog and friction.”

theme General / International Politics and Security
region Global
entity IDSS

Start : 15/01/2016

Duration: 40 weeks

Japan-Southeast Asia Relations: Pursuing a Soft Balancing Strategy

Dr Bhubhindar Singh *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Regional Security Architecture Programme*

“This paper counters the dominant view that Japan is pursuing a hard balancing strategy to achieve its national objectives in response to China’s strategic rise especially since the 2000s. While this might be the case for national defence purposes, this strategy does not capture a more nuanced strategy pursued by Japan towards strengthening ties with Southeast Asia. In this regard, Japan has pursued a soft balancing strategy utilising soft power tools and defence diplomacy.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific
entity IDSS

Start : 01/02/2016

Duration: 48 Weeks

Political Transition and the Environment

Dr Fengshi Wu *Associate Professor*
Ms Aleksandra Skorek *Research Analyst*

“This research is to establish causal arguments that link specific regime features and institutional characteristics with environmental outcomes based on structured comparative case analysis. The research will endeavour to show which specific institutional changes after the breakup and shift of the overall political regime have the direct and shaping up impact on the environment. The focus of the research goes beyond statistical mapping of variables and searches for the actual processes of change and impact. It is to trace which institutional arrangements affect which steps/aspects of environmental protection and to explain why democratisation can sometimes harm the environment. This project has also qualified for NTU Tier 1 Research Grant funding.”

theme General / Non-Traditional Security
region Central Asia / East Asia and Asia Pacific / Europe /
South Asia / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/03/2016

Duration: 64 weeks

A Documentary History of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Mr Eddie Lim *Senior Fellow*
Dr Daniel Chua Wei Boon *Research Fellow*

“This project is an update of a previous publication by Associate Professor Ang Cheng Guan and Mr Eddie Lim. It aims to compile significant documents produced by ASEAN from 1967 to 2007, and develop a thematic commentary that examines key events in the history of ASEAN.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
Regionalism and Multilateralism
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/03/2016

Duration: 72 weeks

Breeding Ground for Radicalism? A Study of Campus Preaching Organisations in Indonesia

Dr Alexander R Arifianto *Research Fellow*

“The primary research objective is the Indonesian campus preaching organisations organised by conservative, Salafi-oriented Islamic groups at state-sponsored and private Islamic universities throughout Indonesia. Specifically, we would visit selected chapters of groups that are sponsored by conservative Islamic groups such as the Justice and Development Party (PKS), Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia (HTI), and the Indonesian Muslim University Students’ Action Union (Kesatuan Aksi Mahasiswa Muslim Indonesia – KAMMI). Given the popularity of these groups among university students, they are the most urgently analysed Islamic preaching groups compared to the other groups. We would also study more mainstream campus groups sponsored by the two largest Indonesian Islamic organisations, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah. We would like to find why the moderate groups are losing grounds to the more ideologically conservative organisations and whether they are being pressured to modify their ideology to become more conservative, in order to remain competitive against these groups.”

theme Non-Traditional Security / Terrorism Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/04/2016

Duration: 52 weeks

Defence Ecosystems in New Arms Exporters: A Comparative Study

Mr Richard A. Bitzinger *Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Military Transformations Programme*

“Defence ecosystems refer to the interaction between the three main players – consumers (the military), developers (defence ministries, defence R&D institutes, defence labs), and suppliers (the local defence industry) – when it comes to determining what kinds of military systems will be indigenously developed, produced, and exported. This project will study four emerging arms exporting states – India, Turkey, South Korea and Brazil – and assess how their defence ecosystems operating when it comes to setting and fulfilling defence R&D priorities. Questions to address include:

- (i) which actors can be identified in each country’s defence ecosystem;
- (ii) which have the greatest influence on defence R&D decision-making;
- (iii) how are priorities set when it comes to defence R&D activities; and
- (iv) how successful they have been in meeting the requirements set out for themselves? This project would provide Singapore with an important heuristic by which to compare the success of its own defence ecosystem.

theme General / International Political Economy /
International Politics and Security /
Singapore and Homeland Security
region Americas / East Asia and Asia Pacific / Europe /
South Asia / Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Global
entity IDSS

Start : 01/04/2016

Duration: 24 weeks

Incorporation of Traditional Security into ADMM and ADMM-Plus Agenda: Prospects, Issues, Policies and Response

Dr Bhubhindar Singh *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Regional Security Architecture Programme*
Mr Henrick Z. Tsjeng *Associate Research Fellow*

“This project will examine the extent to which traditional security could be incorporated into the ADMM and ADMM-Plus agenda. Since its formation, cooperation within ADMM and ADMM-Plus has typically focused on non-traditional issues. Within the ADMM-Plus framework, the ADMM states are engaged in six areas of practical cooperation with the dialogue partners: (i) maritime security; (ii) counter-terrorism; (iii) humanitarian assistance and disaster management; (iv) peace-keeping operations; (v) military medicine; and (vi) humanitarian mine action. The level of cooperation achieved in the non-traditional areas is widely perceived to be positive. However, the changing regional strategic landscape and emergent security challenges have triggered ADMM and ADMM-Plus member states to review other means to further strengthen practical cooperation. This project will analyse the possibility of ADMM cooperation moving into the realm of traditional security as the next level of cooperation for the next decade.

theme International Politics and Security / Maritime Security / Regionalism and Multilateralism
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/04/2016

Duration: 52 weeks

The Trajectory of the South China Sea Territorial Disputes: A Multilateral Perspective

Dr Bhubhindar Singh *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Regional Security Architecture Programme*
Mr Shawn Ho *Associate Research Fellow*

“This project aims to examine the South China Sea territorial disputes from a multilateral perspective. It will compile all the bilateral and multilateral approaches undertaken thus far to attempt to resolve the disputes and analyse the tensions between these two approaches (i.e. China’s preferred bilateral approach versus ASEAN’s preferred multilateral approach). This project will also include policy proposals that multilateral institutions and countries in the region can adopt (including the role that Singapore can play as the country coordinator of ASEAN-China dialogue relations) to help bring greater stability to the South China Sea.”

theme International Politics and Security / Maritime Security / Regionalism and Multilateralism
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/04/2016

Duration: 52 weeks

TNI-AD on the Global Maritime Fulcrum

Mr Keoni Indrabayu Marzuki *Research Analyst*

“The primary research focus of this study is to study the response of the TNI-AD (Indonesian Army), as the dominant service in the Indonesian military, to the Global Maritime Fulcrum vision. Secondly, this study also aims to understand the key drivers of such response by examining several aspects, including (but not limited to) the prevailing strategic culture, the division between internal factions, as well as, key senior officers in the Army structure.”

theme Country and Region Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 03/04/2016

Duration: 52 weeks

Bio-engineering as a New Form of Military Domain

Mr Kalyan Kemburi *Associate Research Fellow*

“This project will survey recent trends and developments in bio-engineering and biotechnology (such as gene-editing for biological weapons of mass destruction) as a potential new domain for warfare. This project will explore the possible avenues for bio-engineering to function as a potential weapons domain, the various threats that could consequently arise, and how these might be prioritised and considered.”

theme General / Cybersecurity, Biosecurity and Nuclear Safety / International Politics and Security / Non-Traditional Security / Singapore and Homeland Security

region Global

entity IDSS

Start : 01/05/2016

Duration: 12 weeks

China's High-Tech Weaponry: PLA Reforms, Transforming the Defence Technology and Industrial Base, and Capabilities in the Cyber, Information, and Space Domains

Dr Michael Raska *Assistant Professor*

“On 31 December 2015, China's Central Military Commission (CMC) announced its most recent and substantial military reform yet. The change, which created a separate Army leadership organ, a Rocket Force, and a Strategic Support Force (SSF), amounts to the culmination of a year of significant changes for China's national security infrastructure. Information on the newly created SSF is scarce, but available analysis suggests that the newly established branch will integrate and consolidate intelligence, communications, and technical reconnaissance with cyber warfare and electronic warfare to create an “information dominant force.” This project will focus on mapping these institutional and organisational changes, advances and challenges in pursuing PLA's cyber, information, and space warfare capabilities. The key question is whether these reforms will enable the PLA to achieve a broader operation fusion, which it has tried to implement over the past two decades.”

theme Country and Region Studies / International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific
entity IDSS

Start : 01/05/2016

Duration: 30 weeks

Korea and the Third Offset Strategy

Dr Michael Raska *Assistant Professor*

“The U.S. Department of Defense is focused heavily on the emerging technologies and innovative concepts that might perpetuate its military edge when it comes to deterrence, reassurance, and power projection; this is called the “third offset” strategy. This project will address the possible impact and implications of U.S.' plans/ideas for a third offset strategy for: (i) South Korean defence and deterrence efforts on the Korean Peninsula; (ii) U.S.' extended deterrence and power projection for Korean contingencies; and (iii) potential South Korean out of area operations, including in the South China Sea and what it would mean for Singapore.”

theme Country and Region Studies / International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific
entity IDSS

Start : 01/05/2016

Duration: 24 weeks

Modernising within Constraint: The Role of Strategic Culture in Shaping the Indonesian Army's Partial Adoption of Military Innovation

Mr Emirza Adi Syailendra *Research Analyst*

"This study seeks to investigate the role of the Indonesian Army's strategic cultures in influencing the impact of the spread of military power in Indonesia. This study posits multiple strategic cultures that have prevailed in Indonesia, stemming from the military's historical experience waging guerrilla warfare. First, the Army continues to advocate the concept of the 'People's Army' mentality. Second, the Army sees its territorial structure set-up as the best practical measure to oversee and manage Indonesia's vast territory. Finally the Army believes that by cultivating close links with civilians, it will gain tactical advantages in terms of acquiring human intelligence and providing local auxiliaries to be mobilised. By using the process tracing method, the study seeks to observe the strength of causal mechanism between aforementioned strategic cultures and various decisions with regards to internal adaption of military innovation, especially budget prioritisation and acceptable organisational changes associated with the innovation."

theme Conflict and Stability / Country and Region Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 1/05/2016

Duration: 28 weeks

National Service in Singapore [Edited Volume]

Mr Ho Shu Huang *Associated Research Fellow*
Dr Graham Ong-Webb *Research Fellow*
Mr Eddie Lim *Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Military Studies Programme*
Ms Nur Diyanah Binte Anwar *Research Analyst, CENS*
Ms Priscilla Cabuyao *Research Analyst, CENS*
Mr Chang Jun Yan *Associate Research Fellow*
Dr Bernard Loo *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme*
Mr Eugene Mark *Senior Analyst*
Mr Henrik Paulsson *Research Analyst*
Dr Terri-Anne Teo *Research Fellow, CENS*
Dr Norman Vasu *Senior Fellow and Deputy Head of CENS*
Dr Wu Shang-Su *Research Fellow*

"National Service (NS) is one of Singapore's foundational national defence policies. First introduced by the British in 1954, amended in 1967 to provide a means to defend a fledgling independent nation, and codified into its present form in 1970, NS is deeply woven into Singapore's political and social fabric. The 50th anniversary of the enlistment of the first batch of full-time National Servicemen is an opportune time to contemplate the past, present and future of NS. This volume brings together a range of perspectives on NS in Singapore. It covers three main areas: the history of NS, NS in practice, and international perspectives. Comprising chapters by individuals with varied backgrounds, National Service in Singapore hopes to offer a broad account of one of Singapore's fundamental public policies."

theme General / Singapore and Homeland Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 03/05/2016

Duration: 60 weeks

Exploring the Character of Nationalism in Post-Reformasi Indonesia

Mr Chen Jieyang Jonathan *Associate Research Fellow*

"Given the historical preoccupation of nationalism, the central position in Indonesia's independence struggle and eventual institutionalisation under the New Order, the study of Indonesian nationalism in contemporary post-Reform Indonesia had been neglected. The primary research focus of this study is to examine various incidents and expressions of nationalism in Indonesia in the post-Reform context, focusing on more recent rhetoric under the Jokowi administration. The argument is that institutionalised nationalism is still prevalent in Indonesia today despite its diminished significance and visibility on the national stage. Indonesian expression of nationalism is studied in three sectors, namely national curriculum, infrastructural/technological development and military-civilian education. Expressions of nationalism also emanate from non-institutionalised and non-ideological sources. These include aspects of cultural nationalism pertaining to the appropriation of 'Indonesian culture' by other countries, economic nationalism especially among protectionist conservatives as well as a new surge in territorial nationalism in politically sensitive areas."

theme General / Country and Region Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/06/2016

Duration: 52 weeks

Goh Keng Swee and the Policy of Conscription

Dr Bernard Loo *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme*

“At the point of Singapore’s independence, its policy-makers opted for a policy of conscription, called National Service, as the basis for the urgent task of building a Singapore Armed Forces. However, conscription was not the only policy option that was being considered at that time. This study seeks to reconstruct, from sources openly available, the strategic considerations that underpinned the eventual decision for conscription. It argues that, given the prevailing theory of war that Singapore’s policy-makers held to, conscription was a policy that was strategically rational, even if it was politically unpalatable.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability /
Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/06/2016

Duration: 20 weeks

War in 2045

Mr Richard A. Bitzinger *Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Military Transformations Programme*
Dr Bernard Loo *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme*
Dr Michael Raska *Assistant Professor*
Mr Kaylan M. Kemburi *Associate Research Fellow*

“This project will address long-range trends and developments when it comes to future warfare. It will explore the likely future military domains, war-fighting concepts, and subsequent priority technology that could be the most critical in the year 2045. It will consider what may constitute the next revolution in military affairs and when and how it might occur. Questions to consider will include: (i) what will the world order look like by 2045; (ii) what might be its dominant characteristics or drivers; (iii) what are the most likely kinds of armed conflict that we can expect in that timeframe; (iv) where is conflict most likely to occur; (v) will armed conflict be more or less prevalent than now; (vi) what are the shocks or game changers that can alter the route to the most likely future? How, then, might these long-term developments affect Singapore security and defence.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability /
Country and Region Studies / Energy Security /
Cybersecurity, Biosecurity and Nuclear Safety /
Maritime Security
region Global
entity IDSS

Start : 01/06/2016

Duration: 40 weeks

Chinese Companies in China’s One Belt One Road (OBOR) Initiative

Ms Gong Xue *Senior Analyst*

“This project seeks to understand Chinese business activities along the OBOR route by examining both China’s domestic economic transformation and its outbound investment patterns. The ensuing economic reform has profound impacts on the behaviour of Chinese companies overseas. Depending on the type of ownership, overseas Chinese activities have mixed effects. Private companies, particularly those that focus on innovation and technology, are likely to receive a warm reception from the host country. Conversely, the political status of Chinese state-owned enterprises often arouses suspicions among the local community, especially when they invest in strategic assets overseas. Therefore, an understanding of the relationship between overseas Chinese activities and their ownership structure is crucial to evaluate their impact on the host countries. In view of this, this project will review the economic cooperation between Singapore companies and its Chinese counterparts and suggest how Singapore should navigate its course moving on.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Political Economy
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 15/06/2016

Duration: 12 Weeks

Centres of Power in Malaysian Politics: New Actors, New Dynamics

Mr Rashaad Ali *Research Analyst*

“Recent developments in Malaysian politics have seen the emergence of new actors and parties to change existing political dynamics in the country. The continued centrality of ethnic and religious identity has seen religion and religious actors rise to the fore as a new conservatism has political parties once again battling to woo voters. Meanwhile, the embattled Najib administration has caused various splits within his UMNO party, while similar disputes within PAS have seen the emergence of a new political party in AMANAH. This project aims to study these new elements within Malaysian politics, identifying new centres of power that have emerged within the last two years. It will primarily focus on the influence and impact of new personalities, the role of religious leaders within politics and society, and the influence of the royalty on the Malaysian public.”

theme Country and Region Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 30/06/2016

Duration: 22 weeks

The Politics of “Deviant” Muslims in Contemporary Malaysia

Ms Saleena Saleem *Associate Research Fellow*

“This paper examines state-enforced limitations to “freedom within religion” with a case study of Muslim-majority Malaysia, where Islam is constitutionally recognised as the official state religion. While the Malaysian Federal Constitution protects freedom of religion in Article 11(1), other constitutional clauses and governmental policies place limitations to the religious freedom of Muslims. Muslim sects or Muslim viewpoints that are contrary to state-approved Sunni Islam principles run the risk of being labelled “deviant” and proscribed. This paper specifically examines the State’s treatment of Shia, Ahmadiyya and secular-liberal Muslims. The paper explores the factors that enable the federal and state religious bureaucracies to create such distinctions within the religion, as well as to explore the factors behind negative social attitudes toward Muslim minority groups. Finally, the paper considers the political and societal implications of such state-enforced limitations against the recent geopolitical developments in the Muslim world.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 30/06/2016

Duration: 26 weeks

Understanding Trends in the Radicalisation of Malaysian Muslims

Ms Aida Arosoaie *Senior Analyst*

“The main objective of the project is to understand the ISIS support bank in Malaysia. This implies an awareness of the social, political and ethnic background of ISIS supporters in the country and an awareness of the ISIS appeal in Malaysia. The project seeks to correlate the motivations of ISIS supporters in Malaysia with ISIS propaganda, ideology and actions. The project will also examine how this radicalisation process in Malaysia could affect Singapore’s security.”

theme Country and Region Studies / Terrorism Studies /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 30/06/2016

Duration: 26 weeks

Obsolete Arms in Military Modernisation of Developing Countries: A Comparison between Myanmar and Thailand

Dr Wu Shang-su *Research Fellow*

“This project discusses the definition of obsolete arms and relevant indicators. This paper will devise a synthetic framework for review of a state’s arsenal based on service time, upgrade records, comparison of foreign counterparts, technological characteristics, and overall military structure. Myanmar and Thailand are selected as research objects both for their similarities as well as for the differences in their developments. The geo-strategic circumstances of Naypyidaw and Bangkok, neither landlocked nor archipelagic, require attention from the three services of their armed forces, thus providing a broad sphere for research. Furthermore, both countries’ mountainous land borders and long coastlines in respectively the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand ensure similar operational environments, which would significantly determine their military planning and procurement. Regarding economy and diplomacy for military modernisation in developing countries, Thailand’s superiority over Myanmar does not cause the former to have better management on aging military assets than the latter.”

theme International Politics and Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/08/2016

Duration: 8 weeks

**International Centre for
Political Violence and
Terrorism Research (ICPVTR)**



Syrian Opposition Dynamics

Mr Syed Huzaifah Bin Othman Alkaff *Senior Analyst*

“Syria is on its fifth year of the conflict that started in 2011. The country faces many challenges from the threat of militant groups, terrorist groups as well as international involvement with regards to the future of the country. This resulted in a quagmire at the political level as well as at the societal level. The conflict is now more than a battle between those for or against President Assad. The dimension of the conflict varies and comprises sectarianism, myriad jihadist and militant groups, proxy of regional powers as well as humanitarian crisis. Hence, this project is to monitor the landscape of the Syrian opposition whilst highlighting the terrorist influence and threat emanating from the dynamics.”

theme Terrorism Studies
region Global
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/01/2016

Duration: 24 weeks

Security Informatics Strategic Project

Ms Nur Azlin Mohd Yasin *Associate Research Fellow*
Mr Muhd Haziq Jani *Research Analyst*
Ms Vidia Arianti *Associate Research Fellow*
Ms Nur Aziemah Azman *Associate Research Fellow*
Ms Sara Mahmood *Research Analyst*
Mr Jasminder Singh *Research Analyst*
Mr Nodirbek Soliev *Senior Analyst*
Mr Remy Mahzam *Associate Research Fellow*

“This research paper is on ISIS messaging and online propaganda, as well as its appeal to its supporters and fighters from regions such as Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.”

theme Terrorism Studies
region Central Asia / South Asia /
Southeast Asia and ASEAN /
Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
entity ICPVTR

Start : 27/01/2016

Duration: 44 weeks

ISIS Social Media Outreach in Southeast Asia

Dr Rohan Gunaratna *Professor and Head of ICPVTR*
Mr Remy Mahzam *Associate Research Fellow*

“In the evolution of modern jihadist propaganda, the self-styled Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is using contemporary mode of messaging especially on social media platforms for recruitment, intimidate enemies and promote its claim to establish a caliphate, a unified Muslim state run according to a strict interpretation of Islamic law. This journal identifies the recent tools, strategies and social networking channels utilised by ISIS in their online campaign to reach out to the Southeast Asian audience.”

theme Cybersecurity, Biosecurity and Nuclear Safety /
Terrorism Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity ICPVTR

Start : 26/02/2016

Duration: 44 weeks

Stopping the Influx of Foreign Fighters to Syria: Reviewing *Hijra* [Emigration] through the Lens of Maqasid Al-Shari'ah

Mr Muhammad Saiful Alam Shah Bin Sudiman *Associate Research Fellow*

“From AQ to JI, and now ISIS, *Hijra*, which is Arabic for emigration, has been used by these groups to justify their call for Muslims emigration to Dar al-Islam or abode of Islam. Historically, *Hijra* refers to the emigration of earlier generation of Muslims for Abyssinia and Madina. This paper focuses on the notion of *Hijra* that ISIS used to strengthen its rank and file. It argues that modern jihadist's use of *Hijra* is different from the *Hijra* of the Prophet because it is a misrepresentation of history. More importantly, it fails to satisfy the Maqasid Syari'a or the objectives of Syari'a law. Through critical enquiry of the concept from the perspective of Maqasid Syari'a, this paper offers an ideological rebuttal strategy to counter ISIS's call for *Hijra*, and is also an attempt to address the ideological flaws in the call that foreign terrorist fighters are unaware of.”

theme Terrorism Studies
region Global
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/04/2016

Duration: 16 weeks

Sunni-Shiite Relations

Mr Syed Huzaifah Bin Othman Alkaff *Senior Analyst*

“The Sunni-Shia conflict in the Middle East is a product of domestic and geo-political contestation. It has the potential to spill over into other countries with Sunni and Shia communities. In Singapore, Sunni-Shi'a relations are cordial and peaceful, running against the trend of global violence and conflict; this is a result of positive political setting, culture and socialisation.”

theme Terrorism Studies
region Global
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/05/2016

Duration: 24 weeks

ISIS Strategic Messaging for the Nusantara and Southeast Asia

Dr Rohan Gunaratna *Professor and Head of ICPVTR*
Mr Ansari Marican *Specialist Director*
Mr Remy Mahzam *Associate Research Fellow*

“In the evolution of modern jihadist propaganda, the self-styled Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is using contemporary mode of messaging especially on social media platforms for recruitment, intimidate enemies and promote its claim to establish a caliphate, a unified Muslim state run according to a strict interpretation of Islamic law. This study identifies the recent tools, strategies and social networking channels utilised by ISIS in their online campaign to reach out to the Nusantara region and the Southeast Asian audience.”

theme Cybersecurity, Biosecurity and Nuclear Safety /
Terrorism Studies / Singapore and Homeland Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/06/2016

Duration: 44 weeks

Analysing the Strength of AQAP within the Yemeni Civil War

Mr Muhammad Sinan Siyech *Research Analyst*

“Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has become one of the strongest franchises of Al Qaeda in Yemen deriving their strength from the protracted civil war. This article draws from the work of Counter Insurgency Theorists like David Galula and David Kilcullen to understand why the group had risen up so meteorically throughout the last one year. The aim is show what can be done to prevent another bid to grab power in a country embroiled in civil war.”

theme Terrorism Studies

region Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/07/2016

Duration: 16 weeks

**Centre of Excellence for
National Security (CENS)**



Muslim Mindanao after the Aquino Administration

Mr Joseph Franco *Research Fellow*

“The book chapter will be part of *Southeast Asian Affairs 2017*. The piece will be a thematic chapter looking into the prospects of peace in Mindanao after 2016 Philippine presidential elections.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Country and Region Studies /
Terrorism Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity CENS

Start : 01/07/2016

Duration: 20 weeks

CVE in Indonesia: Priorities, Practice and the Role of Civil Society

Mr Cameron Sumpter *Associate Research Fellow*

“The study will assess projects aimed at countering violent extremism (CVE) in Indonesia. It will seek to learn about the work conducted by state agencies, but will focus particularly on the experiences of civil society organisations in their efforts to prevent radicalisation and reintegrate former militants, as well as the level of collaboration between government and non-governmental stakeholders. The project has received ethics approval from the NTU International Review Board (IRB) and permission to conduct research in Indonesia from the Ministry of Research and Technology (RISTEK) in Jakarta.”

theme Terrorism Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity CENS

Start : 20/07/2016

Duration: 10 weeks

**Centre for Non-Traditional
Security Studies (NTS Centre)**



Monopoly of the Use of Force 2.0

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony *Associate Professor and Head of NTS Centre*

“This project is a two-year study that examines the current international security order based on national monopolies on the use of force and looks at the current state of security provision and security governance across the different regions of the world. Initiated and funded by Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES), the study brings together about 20 scholars and experts from North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa, making up the Global Reflection Group. Among the key questions the study seeks to explore are: Is security to be treated as a public good? For whom is security provided? How can the current security arrangements be harnessed or managed to produce inclusive security that benefits all citizens? Lastly, what are the implications for global justice and peace?”

The Global Reflection Group is co-chaired by Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony and Professor Herbert Wulf of the Bonn International Center of Conversion (BICC) in Bonn, Germany.”

theme Non-Traditional Security
region Global
entity NTS Centre

Start : 31/12/2014

Duration: 104 weeks

Community Protection and Empowerment

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony *Associate Professor and Head of NTS Centre*

Dr Alistair D. B. Cook *Research Fellow and Coordinator of the HADR Programme*

Dr Tamara Nair *Research Fellow*

Ms Vishalini Chandara Sagar *Senior Analyst*

Ms Celina Yulo Loyzaga *Research Analyst*

Mr Zin Bo Htet *Research Analyst*

“This project aims to (i) map the most vulnerable populations across the world to better understand their needs and vulnerabilities; and (ii) to understand the capacity of communities to respond in the event of crises. This project will map out marginalised communities as well as regions that are more prone to disasters and violence. Special focus will be given to regions where these various categories overlap as they are defined as complex security environments. This project will also look at specific ways to help these communities to protect themselves in crisis situations and also determine where and what type of humanitarian assistance should be provided to help them. This project also seeks to bring together the public, private and people sectors to debate on best practices when dealing with vulnerable communities.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Non-Traditional Security / International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia / Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Global
entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/04/2015

Duration: Multi-year

Emerging HADR Landscape in Asia

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony *Associate Professor and Head of NTS Centre*

Dr Alistair D. B. Cook *Research Fellow and Coordinator of the HADR Programme*

Ms Vishalini Chandara Sagar *Senior Analyst*

Ms Celina Yulo Loyzaga *Research Analyst*

Mr Zin Bo Htet *Research Analyst*

“This project will: (i) identify trends and developments in the HADR environment of Asia over the next decade; (ii) assess new and emerging humanitarian actors (both state and non-state) utilising a multi-dimensional and holistic approach across different levels of analysis (community, national, regional and international); and (iii) include emerging trends in preparedness, response and the evolution of regional frameworks. The overall objective will be to identify the implications of these developments for Singapore and the wider region. The geographical scope of the study will be the Asia Pacific. This project will support the delivery of one of the six policy briefs for FY15/16 – FY17/18 and an edited collection of papers to be published. It is intended to host an annual writer’s workshop for scholars and practitioners to develop key contributions to the project, a regional HADR network and facilitate the building of a bridge between academia and policy.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Non-Traditional Security / Regionalism and Multilateralism / International Politics and Security
region Americas / East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia / Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Global
entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/04/2015

Duration: Multi-year

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Database

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony *Associate Professor and Head of NTS Centre*

Dr Alistair D. B. Cook *Research Fellow and Coordinator of the HADR Programme*

Ms Vishalini Chandara Sagar *Senior Analyst*

Ms Celina Yulo Loyzaga *Research Analyst*

Mr Zin Bo Htet *Research Analyst*

“The programme intends to establish a HADR database that will provide the basis upon which to capture lessons learnt and reflections on HADR operations. This will provide an avenue to build institutional memory on HADR and the evidence for periodic briefings on HADR developments. Its success will be dependent on the ability to engage with returning and serving relief workers and military personnel involved in HADR activities.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Non-Traditional Security / Regionalism and Multilateralism / International Politics and Security

region East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia / Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Global

entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/04/2015

Duration: Multi-year

Humanitarian Effectiveness

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony *Associate Professor and Head of NTS Centre*

Dr Alistair D. B. Cook *Research Fellow and Coordinator of the HADR Programme*

Ms Vishalini Chandara Sagar *Senior Analyst*

Ms Celina Yulo Loyzaga *Research Analyst*

Mr Zin Bo Htet *Research Analyst*

“The project will address the challenge of better emergency disaster response in complex situations and evaluate the quality and impact of assistance by militaries and civilian organisations. The project aims to: (i) improve responses specifically including civil-military relations through dialogue, coordination, needs assessment, the development of a HADR database; and (ii) identify pathways to promote more effective HADR.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Non-Traditional Security / Regionalism and Multilateralism / International Politics and Security

region East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia / Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Global

entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/04/2015

Duration: Multi-year

Humanitarian Technology and Private Sector Engagement

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony *Associate Professor and Head of NTS Centre*

Dr Alistair D. B. Cook *Research Fellow and Coordinator of the HADR Programme*

Ms Vishalini Chandara Sagar *Senior Analyst*

Ms Celina Yulo Loyzaga *Research Analyst*

Mr Zin Bo Htet *Research Analyst*

“This project aims to (i) examine the field of humanitarian technology as applied to a broadly defined context of crises encompassing both natural disasters and conflict zones; and (ii) examine how humanitarian actors can engage better with various stakeholders from the private sector. This project will evaluate the use of humanitarian technology and identify the impact technology has on humanitarian responses, such as the use of drones for needs assessment, as well as the emergent challenges of information technology, big data and technological innovations in humanitarian action. This project will also identify the private sector resources and networks that can be utilised when it comes to disaster management.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Non-Traditional Security / Regionalism and Multilateralism / International Politics and Security

region East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia / Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Global

entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/04/2015

Duration: 112 weeks

Building a Robust Framework for Nuclear Energy Governance in ASEAN

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony *Associate Professor and Head of NTS Centre*

Dr Alistair D. B. Cook *Research Fellow and Coordinator of the HADR Programme*

Mr Julius Cesar Trajano *Associate Research Fellow*

“This programme will explore pathways toward building a robust framework for nuclear energy governance in ASEAN. The study argues that through a dense web of ASEAN-led regional frameworks, to be informed by key lessons on nuclear safety, security and safeguards from other regions, ASEAN is well placed to advance a regional regulatory framework for nuclear energy governance. As such, this three-year project is divided into two research themes: (i) mapping regional regulatory regimes; and (ii) capacity building and policy pathways for the Asia Pacific, including ASEAN.

For 2016, the programme will examine the existing regional frameworks on nuclear energy governance energy (EURATOM, Latin America) outside the ASEAN region as well as the nascent regional cooperation on nuclear 3s within the ASEAN. It will assess how the other international frameworks (the U.S., South Korea, Japan) can inform future regional nuclear governance in ASEAN.”

theme Energy Security / Cybersecurity, Biosecurity and Nuclear Safety / Non-Traditional Security

region Southeast Asia and ASEAN

entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/09/2015

Duration: 156 weeks

NGO Perceptions of Military Humanitarian Activity

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony *Associate Professor and Head of NTS Centre*

Dr Alistair D. B. Cook *Research Fellow and Coordinator of the HADR Programme*

Ms Vishalini Chandara Sagar *Senior Analyst*

Ms Celina Yulo Loyzaga *Research Analyst*

Mr Zin Bo Htet *Research Analyst*

“This project seeks to (i) identify the various perceptions that Non-Governmental Organisations’ (NGOs) have about humanitarian assistance provided by state militaries; and (ii) analyse if these perceptions have impacted the provision of effective humanitarian assistance. Based on consultations with key stakeholders, this project will identify the views about militaries when they provide humanitarian assistance. This project will also explore how recent developments worldwide have affected the relationship between militaries, NGOs and other key stakeholders, with the aim of facilitating better humanitarian outcomes for crisis-affected populations in the future. Finally, the project will look at civil-military coordination in relation to the protection of civilians.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Non-Traditional Security / International Politics and Security

region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN / South Asia

entity NTS Centre

Start : 04/01/2016

Duration: 56 weeks

**Centre for Multilateralism Studies
(CMS)**



Jump-starting South Asia: Round Two of Economic Reforms and “Look East” Policies [Book Project]

Dr Pradumna Bickram Rana Associate Professor and Coordinator of the MSc (IPE) Programme
Dr Chia Wai Mun Associate Professor, Division of Economics, HSS, NTU

“This book focuses on the slowing pace of economic reforms and outlines a two-pronged strategy to jump-start South Asian economies. First, South Asian countries should complete the economic reform process that they had begun in the 1980s and 1990s and implement the more microeconomic reforms, namely, the sectoral, and governance and institutional reforms to enhance competition and improve the operation of markets. Second, they should implement the second round of “Look East” policies or LEP2 to (i) link themselves to production networks in East Asia, their fastest growing markets; and (ii) develop production networks in manufacturing and services within their region. The book argues that the proposed strategy will lead to a win-win situation for all countries in South Asia and East Asia and reinvigorate economic integration within South Asia, one of the least integrated regions of the world. The book also identifies the unfinished policy reform agenda for each South Asian country and the components of the LEP2 that they should implement.”

theme International Political Economy /
Regionalism and Multilateralism
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia /
Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity CMS

Start : 01/04/2014

Duration: 144 weeks

Electoral Institutions, Particularism, and the Skill-Bias of Trade Protection

Dr Lee Su-Hyun Assistant Professor

“Why do some countries have trade protection biased towards skill-intensive industries more than others? While the literature on endogenous protection commonly argues that the skill-bias of trade policy has features of public goods, much previous research does not explain clearly the conditions under which governments maintain higher tariff rates for skill-intensive industries over unskilled-intensive ones. Using time-series cross-section data on 28 industries in 52 democracies, this research argues that the extent to which governments protect skill-intensive industries is explained by the interaction between two factors: first, a country’s factor endowments that determine the median voter’s sector-specific trade policy preferences; and second, the degree of political particularism that affects the responsiveness of representative policymakers to the rent-seeking behavior of special interest groups.”

theme General / International Political Economy
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 15/09/2014

Duration: 104 weeks

“IMF = I’M Fired?: IMF Programme Participation and Workers’ Rights”

Dr Lee Su-Hyun Assistant Professor

“This is a co-authored project with Professor Byung-Won Woo on how do International Monetary Fund (IMF) programmes and conditions affect labour rights? Critics of the IMF contend that participation in an IMF programme is detrimental to workers’ rights as the IMF tries to impose pro-business labour policies via conditionality. In this paper, we argue that while the IMF might have tried to make IMF programmes more beneficial to workers, those efforts are too little to reverse the overall negative effects on labour rights in both short term and long term. Utilising a labour rights dataset and IMF labour market conditionality dataset, we demonstrate that IMF programmes with stricter labour-market conditions have more detrimental effects on both *de jure* labour rights and *de facto* labour practices.”

theme General / International Political Economy
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 01/10/2014

Duration: 104 weeks

A Study to Analyse the Impact of FTAs and Mega-FTAs

Dr Pradumna Bickram Rana *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the MSc (IPE) Programme*

“This research analyses the impact of FTAs and Mega-FTAs on Asian countries and focuses on the following research questions:

- (1) Despite the preponderance of research evidence that economic impacts of FTAs are relatively small, why are countries so eager to sign FTAs and join mega-FTAs?
- (2) What are the benefits and costs of FTAs?
- (3) Are the mega-FTAs, such as TPP, TTIP, RCEP, being negotiated complementary or competitive with each other? Are they stepping stones or stumbling blocks to multilateralism? How should Asian countries respond?
- (4) Since mega-FTAs are likely to play a leading role in making rules on international trade, how will they impact on WTO's centrality? Going forward, what are the possible scenarios - will mega-FTAs undermine the WTO?”

theme International Political Economy /
Regionalism and Multilateralism
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia /
Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity CMS

Start : 01/03/2015

Duration: 105 weeks

Decentralising Financial and Development Architecture

Dr Pradumna Bickram Rana *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the MSc (IPE) Programme*
Dr Ramon Pacheco *Lecturer at King's College, London, U.K.*

“This research focuses on the factors that are leading to the decentralisation of the global economic architecture and how this is complicating the issue of global economic governance. It also focuses on how complementarity between global and regional institutions could be promoted.”

theme International Political Economy /
Regionalism and Multilateralism
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity CMS

Start : 01/06/2015

Duration: 90 weeks

The Timing of Extracting Natural Resources

Dr Lee Chia-yi *Assistant Professor*

“This project aims to explore what affects the timing of natural resource extraction and the resource production rate. Theoretically, natural resources, particularly oil, are highly lucrative, so countries richly endowed with natural resources may want to extract them as fast as possible. However, we have witnessed that some countries delay their oil projects or keep the oil in the ground. What explains this variation? I use data on oil production and statistical models to systematically examine the domestic and international factors that affect the oil production rate.

Update: The first draft of this paper was finished and presented in the 2015 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 1-4 September 2015. More theoretical development and data analyses are on-going.

theme International Political Economy / Energy Security
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 01/06/2015

Duration: 78 weeks

Support from Above: International Organisations and Leadership Survival

Dr Lee Chia-yi *Assistant Professor*

“This project aims to explore how membership in international organisations (IOs) affects political leaders. The existing literature on IOs shows that IO membership leads to some favorable political consequences, such as democratisation and reduced conflicts. Whether political leaders benefit from IO membership, however, is underexplored. This project systematically examines the effect of IOs on leadership survival, showing that IO membership in general has a beneficial effect on leadership survival. It also distinguishes IOs by their functions and finds that economic IOs and political IOs have different effects on democratic leaders and authoritarian leaders.

[Update]: The first draft is finished and available as a working paper. More revisions will be made to the empirical analysis.”

theme International Political Economy /
International Politics and Security
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 01/11/2015

Duration: 52 weeks

Ethnic Diversity, Political Institutions, and the Provision of Public Goods

Dr Lee Su-Hyun *Assistant Professor*

“The existing literature argues that ethnic diversity adversely affects the provision of public goods, as diversity hinders the ability of a society to communicate on common goals and to sanction those who fail to cooperate. They why do some countries more successfully overcome the costs of ethnic division, whereas others do not? This paper argues that the extent to which governments offer public goods for the welfare of a society as a whole depends on the interaction between diversity and political particularism in electoral systems. While diversity affects the heterogeneity of voter preferences for the level and types of public goods, electoral systems determine the degree to which policymakers respond to the collective interests of broad, national constituencies than to narrow, particularistic demands of specific ethnic groups. This argument will be tested using the World Bank’s World Development Indicators (WDI) for 96 countries for the period from 1980 through 2008.”

theme General / International Political Economy
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 30/01/2016

Duration: 78 weeks

Shaping the Future of East Asian Economic Architecture: Views of ASEAN

Dr Kaewkamol (Karen) Pitakdumrongkit *Assistant Professor*

“This project examines ASEAN’s perspective on the future of East Asian Economic Architecture, focusing on three areas: (i) trade; (ii) money and finance; and (iii) infrastructure development.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Political Economy /
Regionalism and Multilateralism
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN /
Global
entity CMS

Start : 01/02/2016

Duration: 20 weeks

China's Energy Diplomacy: A Quantitative Study of Chinese Foreign Policy Towards Energy Producing Countries

Dr Lee Chia-yi *Assistant Professor*

“Due to its rapid economic growth and increasing demand on energy, China has been engaged in numerous efforts to sustain its energy supplies and to enhance its energy security. While existing literature argues that access to energy is often-times the driving force behind Beijing's foreign policy behaviour, little work has been done to systemically examine the bilateral relationship between China and energy producing countries. This project explores how China's foreign policy outcome is influenced by its energy security concern, focusing on three foreign policy instruments – partnerships, foreign aid, and state visits. Using a large-N, quantitative approach, this project analyses the effect of oil production on these three foreign policy instruments. The preliminary results show that Beijing is more likely to form partnerships with oil producing countries. Chinese leaders are also more likely to travel to oil producing countries. China's aid allocation to Africa, however, is not driven by oil abundance.”

theme International Political Economy /
Energy Security / Country and Region Studies
region Global / East Asia and Asia Pacific
entity CMS

Start : 01/06/2016

Duration: 52 weeks

Negotiating International Investment: Evidence from Thailand's Bilateral Investment Treaties

Dr Kaewkamol (Karen) Pitakdumrongkit *Assistant Professor*

“In the era of transnational production networks, FDI is seen as a tool to enhance economic growth and development. Thailand is no exception. The country has been an active participant in global investment flows, as reflected by the fact that it has so far concluded more than 40 bilateral investment treaties (BITs). However, the agreements vary in many aspects, raising a question: “What explains the details of international investment agreements?” This study examines the making of international investment agreements through the lens of negotiation processes. Using the BITs concluded by Thailand and its partners as case studies, I will show how different bargaining techniques explain the dissimilarities regarding the agreement details. My study adds insights to the understanding of negotiation dynamics (especially how countries evade bargaining logjam and arrive at agreed outcomes) and how countries enhance their cross-border investment flows in the Asian region and beyond.”

theme International Political Economy /
Regionalism and Multilateralism
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN /
Global
entity CMS

Start : 01/06/2016

Duration: 40 weeks

**Studies in Inter-Religious
Relations in Plural Societies
(SRP) Programme**



Idea of Caliphate, Islamic State, Migration (Hijra), Takfirism, and Views on Relations with Non-Muslims

Dr Rozlan Giri *Principal Coordinator*

“To seek interpretation, understanding and thoughts that legitimise negative relations, hostility towards non-Muslims and disruption of social harmony/cohesion.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity SRP Programme

Start : 01/10/2014

Duration: 116 Weeks

Survey of *Al-Wala' wal Bara'* (Loyalty and Disavowal) Sentiments within the Muslim Community in Singapore

Dr Mohamed Bin Ali *Assistant Professor*
Sheikh Mohamad Farouq *Research Associate*

“The research aims to explore the Islamic doctrine of *Al-Wala' wal Bara'* (WB) within the Muslim community in Singapore. In particular, it aims to discover to what extent the ‘extreme’ manifestations of WB have influenced and penetrated the Muslim community here. Towards this objective, the study will do a survey of specific WB ideas that might have taken root in the Muslim community. The survey will be conducted through analysing these ideas encapsulated in the teachings of Muslim preachers as well as through interviewing key religious elites and leaders.

In the broad sense, this research attempts to study how religious ideas and concepts such as WB are used by Muslims to incite hatred against the non-Muslims, and thus cause disruption to social harmony and cohesion in a multi-religious society. A mapping of the spectrum of ideas that exist will be done.”

theme Religion in Contemporary Society
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity SRP Programme

Start : 01/12/2014

Duration: 156 Weeks

Framework and Resources for Understanding Inter-religious Relations in Singapore and Southeast Asia

Dr Paul Hedges *Associate Professor*
Dr Tony See *Contract Researcher*
Dr Hue Guan Thye *Contract Researcher*
Ms Juhi Ahuja *Research Analyst*
Mr Salim Mohamed Nasir *Associate Research Fellow*

“This research has two parts: interviews and theory. Interviews (Singapore), Phase 1: apex leaders across the Christian (Catholic and Protestant), Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Taoist/ Chinese religious traditions. Phase 2: mid-level and grassroots practitioners, other traditions and the non-religious. Exploring the resources within communities for inter-religious co-existence and harmony.

Theory: builds on the interviews and employs theoretical tools from hermeneutics, religious studies, philosophy, and dialogue theory to build a framework, or set of frameworks. These will map the local state of inter-religious relations and moving towards an Asian model for the theology of religions. It will include policy advice directed towards state, religious, and inter-faith actors for the promotion and securing of harmony and co-existence in common space.

Update: Phase 1 completed (interviews with apex leadership) and dissemination of initial findings at SRP Symposium 2016; Phase 2: Mid-level leaders and grassroots commencing.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity SRP Programme

Start : 05/01/2015

Duration: 156 weeks

Towards Better Disagreement: A Journey into Religion and Atheism

Dr Paul Hedges *Associate Professor*

“A contracted book project (publication due in September 2016) to explore the relationship and dialogue between religious and atheist world-views. The project will seek to explore reasons for disagreement, areas for common understanding and cooperation, and historical and philosophical misunderstandings and disagreements.”

theme Religion in Contemporary Society
region Americas / Europe / Global
entity SRP Programme

Start : 01/09/2015

Duration: 52 weeks

Brill Research Perspectives: Comparative Theology

Dr Paul Hedges *Associate Professor*

“Brill Research Perspectives in Theology covers state-of-the-art analysis and critical studies in major and emerging fields in systematic, practical, historical, and inter-cultural theology. It provides the most up-to-date research written by a leading theologian in this area. Each issue consists of 50-100 pages, including an annotated bibliography.

Topics range from theologians and specific periods in the history of theology to recent trends and themes in contemporary theology, from confessional traditions to methodological debates, from classic doctrinal themes to current developments in theology and society.

Brill Research Perspectives in Theology is an invaluable resource for scholars wishing to draw on the latest theological research, as well as a dynamic resource for teaching and for students of theology and related fields. Under contract to prepare a BRP on Comparative Theology, due for publication in 2017.”

theme Religion in Contemporary Society
region Global
entity SRP Programme

Start : 15/02/2016

Duration: 52 Weeks

Religious Activism and Religiosity in the 80s – Impact on Management of Religious Diversity

Amb Mohammad Alami Musa *Head of SRP Programme*

“The study will examine how the state's view of religion, its position on the role of religion, the policy decisions taken, the issues that arose due to more aggressive religious expressions, activism and incursion into politics as well as public space in the 1980s had affected the management of religious diversity till today.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity SRP Programme

Start : 01/03/2016

Duration: 40 weeks

**National Security Studies
Programme (NSSP)**



Communist Threat to Both Malaya and Singapore, Spanning 1948 and 1989

Dr Kumar Ramakrishna *Associate Professor, Head of Policy Studies and Coordinator of the National Security Studies Programme*

“This monograph examines the development of the Communist Party of Malaya since the 1930s and the ebb and flow of its fortunes as it sought to secure power in Singapore and Malaya through both armed violence and united front tactics of subversion against the backdrop of the Cold War from the late 1940s to the end of the 1980s.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability / Country and Region Studies / International Politics and Security / Terrorism Studies / Singapore and Homeland Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Global
entity NSSP

Start : 09/04/2014

Duration: 104 weeks

Unpacking the Smart Nation – Policy Implications for a Hyper-connected Singapore

Dr Tan Teck Boon *Research Fellow*

“Using a mixed methodology, this project aims to unpack the Smart Nation initiative. Firstly, it attempts to answer the research question: what is the smart nation and how is it different from preceding digital initiatives from the Singapore government? Secondly, this project seeks to assess the myriad policy implications this high-tech architecture will have on the small nation-state. Lastly, this project looks at the role of the government and how it might adapt in the smart nation scenario. While studies have been made in the past on the digital/intelligent/smart city, there is no comprehensive study on the Smart Nation initiative. This project is expected to fill an important research gap on a timely topic.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Country and Region Studies / Energy Security / Cybersecurity, Biosecurity and Nuclear Safety / International Politics and Security / Non-Traditional Security / Singapore and Homeland Security / Religion in Contemporary Society
region Americas / East Asia and Asia Pacific / Europe / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity NSSP

Start : 02/08/2015

Duration: 52 weeks

Assessing the Datafication of Social Science on Pedagogy and Student Learning – Issues, Debates and Edu-implications

Dr Tan Teck Boon *Research Fellow*

“In the last two decades, the teaching of social science subjects has been dominated by a quantitative approach in institutes of higher learning in Singapore. How has this “pedagogical turn” impacted student learning? This study examines the effects of this “pedagogical turn” on student learning in the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University. Using a qualitative methodology, this study evaluates the views of a small but select group of interview participants comprised of tenured professors, senior university administrators and key policymakers. The results of this study will be used to develop a set of policy recommendations for public administrators in the local education sector.”

theme General / Country and Region Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity NSSP

Start : 01/01/2016

Duration: 48 weeks

Whither Renewable Energy? Falling Crude Oil Prices and Implications for ASEAN Energy Cooperation

Dr Tan Teck Boon *Research Fellow*

“Crude oil prices fell below US\$30 per barrel earlier this year. How has the sustained decline in crude oil prices impacted investment in renewable energy? This quantitative study will assess the correlation between investment in renewable energy and crude oil prices. The aim is to establish if the two have decoupled in recent years through regression analysis. In particular, this study will evaluate the relation between the two at both the global and country level. Regions/countries that are the subject of this study include the U.S., China, EU and ASEAN. Datasets will be drawn from the UN World Development Indicators, Energy Information Administration and major energy producers. In addition, reasons behind the results will be examined. Implications for the future of ASEAN cooperation on renewable energy will also be discussed.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Political Economy / Energy Security /
Cybersecurity, Biosecurity and Nuclear Safety /
Regionalism and Multilateralism
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN /
Middle East and North Africa (MENA) / Global
entity NSSP

Start : 01/01/2016

Duration: 48 weeks

Non-Violent Extremism and Violent Extremism: A Nexus?

Dr Kumar Ramakrishna *Associate Professor, Head of Policy Studies and Coordinator of the National Security Studies Programme*

“To investigate the links if any between so-called “non-violent” extremism and manifestations of extremist violence. Case studies from the U.K. and Southeast Asia will be explored.”

theme Terrorism Studies
region Global
entity NSSP

Start : 30/06/2016

Duration: 18 weeks

Others



Shifting Sands: Volatile Political Transitions in the Middle East and North Africa, Essays on Sports and Politics

Mr James M. Dorsey *Senior Fellow*

“(Book to be published by World Scientific)

The Middle East and North Africa are experiencing the most fundamental transition in their post-colonial history. It is a transition that is changing borders as well as political and social structures. Conflicting visions of what those structures should be ensure that transition will take years and make the process volatile, brutal and bloody. The balance of power shifts like quicksand. Mass anti-government protests that initially succeeded in toppling leaders have deteriorated into civil wars in Syria, Yemen and Libya and the return of autocracy in Egypt. In the process, the protests have given way to the rise of Jihadist Islam fuelled by sectarian government policies. The rise of Jihadism has not only revived global efforts to counter political violence but also sparked soul searching within Islam itself and debate about combatting the marginalisation and alienation of minority Muslim communities in the West and the justification of international support of autocratic regimes whose policies create environments conducive to radicalisation.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability /
Country and Region Studies
region Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
entity RSIS

Start : 11/07/2013

Duration: 158 weeks

The South China Sea Disputes: Flashpoints, Turning Points and Trajectories

Mr Yang Razali Kassim *Senior Fellow*

[An edited volume for *Strategic Currents 2016* examining the South China Sea Disputes, to be published by World Scientific Publishing Company/Imperial College Press.]

“This volume tracks and traces the evolution of the South China Sea Disputes since the controversial 2012 ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Phnom Penh, which marked a turning point in the regional handling of the disputes. It also covers the international debates on one of the hottest international disputes of the 21st century, which can easily turn from a brewing flashpoint into a regional conflict with global repercussions.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security / Maritime Security
region Southeast Asia/ASEAN
entity RSIS

Start : 01/12/2014

Duration: 100 weeks

China and the Middle East: Venturing into the Maelstrom

Mr James M. Dorsey *Senior Fellow*

(Book to be published by Palgrave)

“China’s increasingly significant economic and security interests in the Middle East impact not only its energy security but also its regional posture, relations with regional powers as well as the United States and efforts to pacify nationalist and Islamist Uighurs in its north-western province of Xinjiang. Those interests are considerably enhanced by China’s One Belt, One Road. Protecting its mushrooming interests is forcing China to realign its policies and relationships in the region. China feels the pressure to acknowledge that it no longer can remain aloof to the Middle East and North Africa’s multiple conflicts. China’s long-standing insistence on non-interference in the domestic affairs of others and refusal to envision a foreign military presence and its perseverance that its focus is the development of mutually beneficial economic and commercial relations progressively falls short of what it needs to safeguard its vital interests. Increasingly, China will have to become a regional player in competitive cooperation with the United States, the dominant external actor.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability /
Country and Region Studies
region Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
entity RSIS

Start : 01/05/2015

Duration: 104 weeks

Creating Frankenstein: The Saudi Export of Wahhabism

Mr James M. Dorsey *Senior Fellow*

(Book to be published by Hurst)

“Tension between Middle Eastern regional powers Saudi Arabia and Iran are likely to intensify sectarian strains in countries that are home to both Sunni and Shiite Muslim communities. At the heart of the battle between Saudi Arabia and Iran is a four decade-old existential battle for dominance not only in the Middle East and North Africa but in the Muslim world as a whole. It is a battle that started with the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran. Concerned that the Iranian revolution would offer a form of Islamic governance involving a degree of popular sovereignty that would challenge Saudi Arabia’s absolute monarchy which cloaks itself in a puritan interpretation of Islam, the kingdom went on the warpath. In doing so, it turned Wahhabi proselytization into the single largest dedicated public diplomacy campaign in World War Two history, spending up to \$100 billion since 1979 on the funding of Muslim cultural institutions across the globe and forging close ties to non-Wahhabi Muslim leaders and intelligence agencies.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability /
Country and Region Studies

region Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

entity RSIS

Start : 01/10/2015

Duration: 52 weeks

RSIS Seminar Series on Muslim Societies in Asia

Dr Mohamed Nawab bin Osman *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Malaysia Programme*
Ms Iulia Lumina *Research Analyst*

“The RSIS Seminar Series on Muslim Societies in Asia was launched at the beginning of the year with the aim of analysing the current challenges facing Muslim societies and grounding the debates of reform and transnational movements in Asian contexts. The issues explored in the series vary from the implementation of Islamic law in Southeast Asia, the dynamics of politics, religion and security in Bangladesh, the aspirations of the Islamic State and the rise of Islamo-democrats in Central Asia, to Islamic education and the role of Muslim institutions in building inter-faith relations and religious diversity and the state of Muslim minorities in Myanmar and Cambodia. The series has covered a number of country-based cases from Brunei to Kazakhstan. The upcoming seminars include a focus on Salafism, the conflicts in Southern Thailand and Southern Philippines, the intersection of religious identity and intolerance in South India and the effects of state authority on Muslim Uyghurs in China.”

theme Religion in Contemporary Society

region Central Asia / East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia /
Southeast Asia and ASEAN

entity RSIS

Start : 26/01/2016

Duration: Multi-Year

Mahathir, Anwar and Malaysia’s Opposition at the Crossroads: Beginning of the End, or a New Beginning?

Mr Yang Razali Kassim *Senior Fellow*

“To review the prospects for the Malaysian opposition, following the second incarceration of Anwar Ibrahim, and the “reinvention” of Mahathir as a de facto oppositionist leader.. This will paper will include the broader implications on Malaysian politics as a whole, taking into account the turmoil in UMNO as a new factor that will determine whether the Malaysian opposition will evolve or remake itself in unexpected ways.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability /
Country and Region Studies

region Southeast Asia and ASEAN / East Asia and Pacific / Global
entity RSIS

Start : 02/03/2016

Duration: 36 weeks

Southeast Asia and the Post-Cold War, 1990-2020: An International History

Dr Ang Cheng Guan *Associate Professor and Head of Graduate Studies*

“This is the sequel to the earlier study (Southeast Asia and the Cold War). This book will take stock of how Southeast Asia has evolved since 1990, the changes and continuities from a contemporary international history/politics perspective. It is targeted for publication in 2019-2020, a befitting time for reflection and also for looking ahead.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability /
Country and Region Studies /
International Political Economy /
International Politics and Security /
Regionalism and Multilateralism

region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN

entity GPO

Start : 07/03/2016

Duration: 248 weeks