

Research at RSIS

Issue 6 - December 2016



**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

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 Bhubhindar Singh *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Regional Security Architecture Programme*
Mr Henrick Z. Tsjeung *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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indonesian Military (TNI) under the Global Maritime Fulcrum

Mr Keoni Indrabayu Marzuki *Research Analyst*

“The Global Maritime Fulcrum (GMF) promises fundamental changes in a number of key aspects pertaining to Indonesia's foreign policy, infrastructure development, management of marine resources, culture, and ultimately, defence and security policy. The primary research focus of this study is to examine the response of the Indonesian Military (TNI) to the Global Maritime Fulcrum vision and understand the key drivers/factors that influence or shape the response. This research separately examines the response of each military service, Army, Navy and Air Force. The compartmentalisation would enable comparison and greater understanding of the TNI's response to GMF. Secondary aim of this research project is to analyse the implication of GMF to aspects of Indonesia's defence policy, including procurement priorities, defence posture and doctrines.”

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

Start : 03/04/2016

Duration: 52 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

Malaysia's Middlepowermanship and its Impact on Relations with China and the US

Mr David Han *Research Analyst*

“This is a research project which will conduct a comparative appraisal of Malaysia's relations with the big powers, namely the U.S. and China. Specifically, the study will examine Malaysia's ties with both powers in the context of ASEAN multilateralism. Although studies of Malaysia's relations with the major powers tend to focus on Malaysia as a small state practising either a “hedging” or “balancing” strategy in the midst of great power rivalry, Malaysia's foreign policy towards the U.S. and China is also conducted through a multilateral approach which focuses on global governance according to international norms. As such, this paper will explore the extent to which multilateralism impact Malaysia's relations with the major powers, given that involvement in multilateralism and the corollary institutionalism are key components of Malaysia's foreign policy objectives.”

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

Start : 30/05/2016

Duration: 40 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

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*

“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

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

Educating the Professional Military: Civil-Military Relations and Professional Military Education in India

Dr Anit Mukherjee *Assistant Professor*

“This research project analyses the ways in which civil-military relations shape professional military education. The main argument is that military education benefits from a civil-military partnership, whereby civilians play a supportive role in military education. Theoretically, this argument challenges Samuel Huntington’s notion of ‘objective control’—which envisaged a strict separation between the civil and military domains. In making this argument the paper examines the role of civil-military relations in shaping professional military education in India. While describing the evolution of military education in India, it analyses its weaknesses and argues that this is primarily due to its model of civil-military relations, with a limited role for civilians. Conceptually this paper argues for a greater dialogue on professional military education among civilians, both policy makers and academics, and military officers and not to leave it to the military’s domain—as is currently the practice in most armies. This project aims to be published in an appropriate peer reviewed journal.”

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

Start : 01/08/2016

Duration: 22 weeks

Christian Political and Social Responses to Increasing Islamization in Malaysia

Mr David Han *Research Analyst*

“This study seeks to examine Christian political and social responses to increasing Islamization in Malaysia. The heightened push towards greater Islamization has raised concerns among non-Muslim minorities that their civil and religious rights could be encroached upon. This paper will assess the causes which have driven Malaysia’s Christian communities to respond through political and social activism to secure their civil and religious rights. In general, Islamophobia has been understood as the prejudices of predominantly non-Muslim societies against Muslim minorities. However, what is less explored is Islamophobia as the apprehension of non-Muslim minorities towards a predominantly Muslim society. As such, this research will analyse the nature of Islamophobia among Christian minorities in Malaysia, and how this translates into political and social activism which seeks to promote greater social justice and pluralistic freedom couched in terms of a Malaysian identity.”

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

Start : 01/10/2016

Duration: 35 weeks

Explaining Iranian Nuclear Negotiability - A Tri-Causal Approach

Dr Nah Liang Tuang *Fellow*

“The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) Iran signed in July 2015 advanced the cause of nuclear arms non-proliferation by precluding the possibility of Tehran developing nuclear arms capability in the foreseeable future. While many agree about the JCPOA’s effects, fewer concur about Persian nuclear negotiability motivations. Some analysts champion the view that economic pressure pushed the Iranians to acquiesce to the JCPOA. Others argue that Iran’s theocracy declared nuclear arms verboten under Islam, reinforcing nuclear non-proliferation norms. However, even as mono-causal explanations substantiating Tehran’s willingness to compromise provide parsimonious comfort, such an approach risks blinding the analyst to the complete picture explaining Iranian nuclear policy. Addressing this, this project proposes that both the Persian desire to develop a robust nuclear programme and the willingness to conclude the JCPOA, can be explained by economics, norms and national security based factors, and that these factors are interlinked and/or mutually supportive.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security
region Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
entity IDSS

Start : 27/10/2016

Duration: 16 weeks

The State and Religion in Malaysia: Religious Conservatism and Muslim Women Activism

Ms Saleena Saleem *Associate Research Fellow*

“This paper examines the forms of interactions between the Malaysian state and different local Muslim religious actors that have contributed to the rise in religious conservatism observed in Malaysian society. The paper looks at the dynamics of these interactions through the lens of Muslim women activism. Given that females account for approximately three out of four students in tertiary education institutes in Muslim-majority Malaysia today, women are important contributors in shaping the public discourse on pertinent socio-political issues in different segments of society. In particular, the paper analyses responses by Muslim women civil society organisations of differing focus, i.e., the Islamic-oriented, progressive Muslim and secular-oriented, to recent socio-political issues that affect women in the context of rising religious conservatism – for instance, in the application of Sharia (Islamic) law; emphasis on religious dress codes for women; and conceptions of gender equality, roles and identity.”

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

Start : 31/10/2016

Duration: 20 weeks

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



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

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

Threat of Uyghur Militancy to Southeast Asia: An Assessment

Mr Nodirbek Soliev *Senior Analyst*

“Southeast Asia is witnessing evolving security risks deriving from the unprecedented presence of Chinese Uyghur militants in the region. Although Uyghurs’ involvement in militant activities in this region is a relatively new phenomenon that is still evolving, it has already emerged to become a complex and multidimensional transnational security issue. The issue needs to be studied in greater details and deeper examination to get clear picture. This study aims to ascertain the level of the current threat posed by Uyghur militants to Southeast Asia.”

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

Start : 10/10/2016

Duration: 16 weeks

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



National Service in Singapore [Chapter for Edited Volume]

Dr Terri-Anne Teo *Research Fellow*
Ms Priscilla Cabuyao *Senior Analyst*

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 CENS

Start : 03/05/2016

Duration: 60 weeks

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 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (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 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (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 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (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 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (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 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (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 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme*

Mr Julius Cesar Trajano *Associate Research Fellow*

“This programme explores 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 (3S) 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.

The programme examines the existing regional frameworks on nuclear energy governance energy (EURATOM, Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia, Asian Nuclear Safety Network etc)) outside the ASEAN region as well as the nascent regional cooperation on nuclear 3s in the ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region. It assesses how the other international frameworks (US, South Korea, Japan) can inform 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 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (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

Knowledge Management for Humanitarian Continuity (Project 3 of Choped-Asia project) Analysing the disaster relief of a specific case study.

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

Dr Alistair D. B. Cook *Research Fellow and Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme*

Mr Ennio V. Picucci *Research Associate*

Case study analysis of a past event on Asia Pacific in which disaster relief efforts took place.

theme Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs /
Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security /
Non-Traditional Security /
Regionalism and Multilateralism /
Disaster Management

region East Asia and Asia Pacific

entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/09/2016

Duration: 104 weeks

Mapping and Analysis of HADR Landscape (Project 2 of Choped-Asia project) Project will build a solid foundation by analysing the HADR actors involved in the Asia-Pacific

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

Dr Alistair D. B. Cook *Research Fellow and Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme*

Mr Ennio V. Picucci *Research Associate*

For a comprehensive understanding of the regional landscape, this project will build a solid foundation by analysing the current and emerging actors involved in HADR in the Asia Pacific. Through mapping the landscape and then analysing their interactions, we will develop the intellectual capacity in Singapore to contribute to the global debate and provide an assessment of how the mechanisms in the region can coordinate the region's response when disasters strike.

theme Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs /
Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security /
Non-Traditional Security /
Regionalism and Multilateralism /
Disaster Management

region East Asia and Asia Pacific

entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/09/2016

Duration: 104 weeks

**Centre for Multilateralism Studies
(CMS)**



Jumpstarting South Asia: Revisiting Economic Reforms and “Look East” Policies [Book Project]

Dr Pradumna Bickram Rana *Associate Professor, RSIS*
Dr Chia Wai Mun *Associate Professor, 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: 104 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 toward skill-intensive industries 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 Program Participation and Workers’ Rights

Dr Lee Su-Hyun *Assistant Professor*

“Co-authored project with Byung-Won Woo at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies: This research project examines the effects of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on labor rights. Critics of the IMF contend that participation in an IMF program is detrimental to workers’ rights as the IMF tries to impose pro-business labor policies via conditionality. In this paper, we argue that while the IMF might have tried to make IMF programs more beneficial to workers, those efforts are too little to reverse the overall negative effects on labor rights in both short term and long term. Utilizing a labor rights dataset and the IMF labor market conditionality dataset for 89 countries, we demonstrate that IMF programs with stricter labor-market conditions have more detrimental effects on both *de jure* labor rights and *de facto* labor practices.”

theme General / International Political Economy
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 01/10/2014

Duration: 138 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

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 favourable political consequences, such as democratization 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 in general IO membership 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 completed and available as a working paper. The second draft is being revised and will be presented in the 10th Annual Conference on the Political Economy of International Organizations"

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

Start : 01/11/2015

Duration: 78 weeks

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

Dr Lee Su-Hyun *Assistant Professor*

“This research project aims to explain cross-national variation in the provision of public goods. The existing literature suggests that ethnic diversity is negatively associated with various dimensions of good governance (e.g. public good provision, economic development, political stability, etc.), since diversity not only hinders the ability of a society to communicate on common goals but also generates collective action problems among ethnic groups that hold different policy preferences. Then why do some countries more successfully overcome the costs of ethnic division and provide public goods for broad, national constituencies? To answer this question systematically, the present study analyzes the joint effects of ethnic diversity and electoral institutions on public good provision, including health, education, and public infrastructure. While diversity affects the heterogeneity of voter preferences for the level and types of public goods, the features of electoral systems determine the degree to which policymakers favor the collective interests of broad, national constituencies rather than narrow, particularistic demands of specific ethnic constituencies. Using data from the World Bank’s Development Indicators (WDI) for 96 countries from 1980 through 2008, the paper finds that the extent to which representative policymakers offer public goods for the welfare of society as a whole depends on the interaction between a country’s ethnic diversity and political particularism in electoral systems.”

theme General / International Political Economy
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 30/01/2016

Duration: 88 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 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 is driven by oil endowments as well.”

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

ASEAN's Institutional Responses to the Changing Security-Economics Nexus

Dr Kaewkamol (Karen) Pitakdumrongkit *Assistant Professor*

"This paper examines ASEAN's responses to the changing economic-security nexus. It assesses how the notion of economic security has evolved over time and examines ASEAN's collective strategies to cope with it in three issue areas – trade, money and finance, and infrastructure development. This paper also identifies the key conditions which lead to successful regional cooperation."

theme International Political Economy /

Regionalism and Multilateralism

region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN

entity CMS

Start : 01/10/2016

Duration: 40 weeks

Labour Market Institutions and Outward Foreign Direct Investment in Developed Democracies

Dr Lee Chia-yi *Assistant Professor*

"This project is co-authored with Dr Mi Jeong Shin. Recent political issues over bringing back firms in the United States show the economic and political consequences of a significant amount of outward foreign direct investment (OFDI) in developed democracies. Despite this growing attention to OFDI, little is known about what drives OFDI in those countries. Drawing upon the literature linking domestic institutions and economic performance, we argue that countries with a more centralized wage bargaining system and higher union density are more likely to have a higher level of OFDI, because stronger labour power drives firms to exit the country. We test this argument using both aggregate- and firm-level data in developed democracies."

theme International Political Economy /

Country and Region Studies

region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Americas / Europe

entity CMS

Start : 01/10/2016

Duration: 52 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: 136 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 Nursheila Muez *Research Analyst*
Ms Jessica Yeo
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*

“The project sought to explore reasons for disagreement, areas for common understanding and cooperation, and historical and philosophical misunderstandings and disagreements. A contracted book exploring the relationship and dialogue between religious and atheist worldviews was subsequently published in September 2016, followed by a book launch in Singapore and a book signing in San Antonio, Texas, USA.”

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

Engaging Religion with Pragmatism - State's Management of Social Issues and Religious Tensions in the 1980s

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

Countering Contemporary Jihadism and Violence: Myths, Realities and Solutions

Dr Mohamed Bin Ali *Assistant Professor*

“This paper proposes to weed out the myths from the realities with regard to the problems of jihadism with a view towards formulating new strategies against the threat. The paper first sets out to understand the phenomenon of Islamism, proceeds to show how it has evolved into the more violent strain of jihadism and then establishes both as aberrations to Islam. It will also examine the use of force in Islam - whether it is legitimate in Islam and under what conditions. The paper will establish that a root cause of Islamist terrorism is the current intellectual crisis in the Muslim world. In providing solutions, the paper will highlight the critical role of religious organizations and influential religious leaders in shaping global reconciliation. It will conclude that the jihadist threat is a highly complex and delicate one and concerted efforts on every front is vital.”

theme Terrorism Studies / Religion in Contemporary Society

region Global

entity SRP Programme

Start : 01/10/2016

Duration: 48 weeks

Defining the “Enemies” of God: Muslim Extremists’ Perception of the Religious Other

Dr Mohamed Bin Ali *Assistant Professor*

“One of the issues in contemporary Islamic thought which has attracted much attention amongst Muslim scholars and within the Muslim community is the valid and appropriate attitude of Muslims to relationships with non-Muslims. A major source of confusion and controversy with regard to this relationship comes from the allegation that Muslims must reserve their love and loyalty for fellow Muslims and to reject and declare war on non-Muslims or the Religious Other. This research explores the conception of the Religious Other by contemporary Muslim extremists. It aims to highlight how Muslim extremists today misuse Quranic verses and Islamic traditions to justify their hatred of and enmity towards the Religious Other. In particular, this research studies the contents of Surah Al-Mumtahanah, the sixtieth chapter of the Quran, and shows how the Quran, and particularly this chapter, and the concept of Millat Ibrahim (Religion of Abraham) are used by Muslim extremists to formulate the conception of the Religious Other.”

theme Terrorism Studies / Religion in Contemporary Society

region Middle East and North Africa (MENA) / Global

entity SRP Programme

Start : 01/10/2016

Duration: 52 Weeks

Rise of Sectarianism in the Middle East post-Arab Spring and its Impact on Islamic Activism in Southeast Asia

Mr Muhammad Haziq Jani *Research Analyst*

Ms Nursheila Muez *Research Analyst*

“The landscape of Islam in the Middle East has been dramatically altered with the rise of sectarianism after the Arab Spring. This project aims to explore if, and how, the rise of sectarianism in the Middle East post-Arab Spring has impacted Islamic activism in Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on issues pertaining to the treatment of the religious Other and inter-religious relations.”

theme Country and Region Studies /

Religion in Contemporary Society

region Southeast Asia and ASEAN /

Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

entity SRP Programme

Start : 03/01/2017

Duration: 18 weeks

National Security Studies Programme (NSSP)



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: 100 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: 78 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: 78 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: 52 weeks

Others



China and the Middle East: Venturing into the Maelstrom

Dr 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: 120 weeks

Creating Frankenstein: The Saudi Export of Wahhabism

Dr 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: 104 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 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 East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN /
Global

entity RSIS

Start : 02/03/2016

Duration: 75 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

Science & Technology and Economic Security

Dr Christopher Lim *Senior Fellow*

"Studies would include:

- a) how the development of science & technology could change the economic future and security of any country and/or region;
- b) strategies and/or initiatives of a country and/or a region could alter the economic future and security of another country and/or region;
- c) exploration on the potential usage of biomimicry concept on how science, technology and economic could auto-feed and change the dynamics and characteristics of each other."

theme General

region Global

entity RSIS

Start : 01/06/2016

Duration: Multi-year

Political Transition in South East Asia and the Middle East

Dr James M. Dorsey *Senior Fellow*

“A look at why political transition in Southeast Asia has been relatively successful as opposed to struggles in the Middle East and North Africa with a focus on the role of civil society, religion, donors and external powers.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN /
Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
entity RSIS

Start : 01/08/2016

Duration: 52 weeks

Shifting Loyalties and New Political Trends in East Malaysia

Dr Farish (Badrol Hisham) Ahmad-Noor *Associate Professor
Coordinator, PhD Programme*

“The project looks at the latest currents of identity politics in East Malaysia, and considers the impact of local-level identity politics on the formation of new political parties and alliances in the East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak.”

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

Start : 01/11/2016

Duration: 20 weeks