



S. RAJARATNAM
SCHOOL OF
INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

Research at RSIS

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



Maritime Security and Sea Lines of Communication — Research Paper

Ms Jane Chan *Research Fellow and Coordinator of the Maritime Security Programme*
Mr Collin Koh *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’s 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 *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: 234 weeks

The Security Strategies of Middle Powers in the Asia Pacific

Dr Ralf Emmers *Professor, Associate Dean and Head of CMS*
Ms Sarah Teo *Associate Research Fellow*

“Why do some middle powers adopt a regional security strategy that is more functional in nature while others seem to rely on a more normative one? This book seeks to examine what drives the different regional security strategies of four middle powers in the Asia Pacific: Australia, Indonesia, South Korea and Malaysia. Drawing on the extant middle power literature, we claim that the regional security strategies of middle powers could take two forms, namely functional or normative. A functional strategy means that the middle power targets its resources to address a specific problem that it has a high level of interest in, while a normative strategy refers to a focus on promoting general behavioural standards and confidence building at the multilateral level. This book argues that whether a middle power ultimately employs a more functional or normative regional security strategy depends on their resource availability and strategic environment.”

theme International Politics and Security /
Regionalism and Multilateralism

region East Asia and Asia Pacific /
Southeast Asia and ASEAN

entity IDSS

Start : 11/06/2015

Duration: 156 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: 100 Weeks

National Service in Singapore [Edited Volume]

Mr Ho Shu Huang *Associate 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 / CENS

Start : 03/05/2016

Duration: 85 weeks

Risk Taking in War: Command Decisions in the Gulf War (1990–1991)

Dr Pascal Vennesson *Professor*

“In the early morning hours of 2 August 1990, Iraq launched the invasion of Kuwait. Soon thereafter, the U.S. and their coalition allies started the build-up of what would become a major air and ground campaign leading to the ejection of Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February 1991. The goal of this case study is to examine key command decisions made by both the U.S. and Iraqi political and military leaders from the perspective of prospect theory, the most influential descriptive theory of decision-making under risk in the social sciences.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability /
International Politics and Security
region Middle East and North Africa (MENA) / Global
entity IDSS

Start : 01/12/2016

Duration: 52 weeks

Defence Reforms in India

Dr Anit Mukherjee *Assistant Professor*

“This is a chapter in a proposed book co-edited by the author 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 and the Shekatkar committees — which were created in 2011 and 2016 respectively, and were tasked to revisit the defence reforms process. Next, it will assess the prospects for defence reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will conclude by suggesting a roadmap for the future.”

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

Start : 15/12/2016

Duration: 78 weeks

How Generals Decide: Skilled Intuition and Military Effectiveness

Dr Pascal Vennesson *Professor*

“Why do generals make sensible decisions that help achieve operational effectiveness in some cases, yet misjudge the odds and make the wrong choices in others? Generalship is a core dimension of the art of war, but its relative importance for military effectiveness is theoretically contested and empirically unresolved. The overconfidence model and the recognition-primed decision model, two of the most influential perspectives about judgement and decisions in cognitive psychology, provide contrasting insights into the effect of generalship on military effectiveness. To assess these two models, I select a central puzzle in the history of command: General Douglas MacArthur’s success at Inchon followed a few weeks later by the stunning failure of his drive to the Yalu.”

theme International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Global
entity IDSS

Start : 01/01/2017

Duration: 104 weeks

Wide from the Start: Security and Post-Colonial State Building in Southeast Asia

Dr Pascal Vennesson *Professor*

Dr Delphine Allès *Associate Professor, University of Paris East,
France*

“Critical security advocates generally assume that the process of broadening and deepening security starts with a core, the defence of state borders, which is progressively left behind or complemented by “non-state” concerns and “non-military” policies. They see this incorporation of economic, societal and environmental issues to security as a conceptual and policy innovation, which downplays and even puts into question the centrality of the military. Finally, they maintain that broadening security tends to favour more liberal values and policies. In this paper, we seek to challenge this Western-centric interpretation by exploring the state and military sources of the comprehensive conception of security in Indonesia and Malaysia. Despite their differences in state building and international alignments, they both adopted comprehensive conceptions of security right from the start. Political, societal and economic issues have been constituted as security issues before the consolidation of frontiers and sovereignties.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security / Maritime Security /
Non-Traditional Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/01/2017

Duration: 104 weeks

Peace Processes in Southern Thailand and Southern Philippines: A Comparative Study

Mr Eugene Mark *Senior Analyst*

Dr Graham Ong-Webb *Research Fellow*

“Both Thailand and the Philippines are home to Muslim minorities which have been engaged in persistent conflict with the central Thai and Philippine governments for decades. The two countries have also embarked on peace dialogue trajectories. Thailand began a dialogue process in February 2013, but nothing much has progressed since. The Philippines gained slightly more traction in the Bangsamoro Peace Process with a final peace agreement signed between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on 27 March 2014. This research attempts to adopt a conflict resolution framework to evaluate the dialogue processes in both Southern Thailand and Southern Philippines. This research will also analyse the nature and character of peace processes in these two Muslim-dominated regions by focusing primarily on the motivations underpinning them, which serve as an important litmus test for determining whether a dialogue process will succeed. The study will also compare and contrast the character, developments and trajectories of these two dialogue processes so as to distil crucial similarities and differences.”

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

Start : 01/03/2017

Duration: 104 weeks

Contesting Visions of Regional Orders in East Asia

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

Dr Tan See Seng *Professor of International Relations and Deputy
Director of IDSS*

Mr Shawn Ho *Associate Research Fellow*

Ms Sarah Teo *Associate Research Fellow*

Mr Henrick Z. Tsjeng *Associate Research Fellow*

“Major power dynamics continue to shape East Asia’s peace and stability. While the Trump administration has declared its intentions to engage with regional countries and institutions, challenges are emerging to the U.S.-led regional order. China, for instance, has implemented initiatives that seem like the elements of an alternative regional order centred on its leadership. Other regional/middle powers, including ASEAN and its member states, have to navigate these complex dynamics and ensure that their own interests are preserved in the evolving regional strategic landscape. This project will examine four sub-themes: (i) relevance and sustainability of U.S.-led regional order; (ii) elements of Chinese-led regional order; (iii) implications for defence multilateralism in East Asia; and (iv) prospects for issue-based minilateralism in regional security cooperation.”

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

Start : 01/04/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

Setting the Stage for Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2018

Dr Bhubhindar Singh *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Regional Security Architecture Programme*
Dr Tan See Seng *Professor of International Relations and Deputy Director of IDSS*
Mr Shawn Ho *Associate Research Fellow*
Ms Sarah Teo *Associate Research Fellow*
Mr Henrick Z. Tsjeng *Associate Research Fellow*

“ASEAN will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017, and Singapore will be assuming the role of the ASEAN Chair in 2018. It would be timely to take stock of ASEAN's achievements and challenges over the last five decades, and look ahead to the future of the Association. Two main themes will guide this research: (i) evaluation of ASEAN's strengths and weaknesses thus far; and (ii) assessment of regional dynamics within which Singapore will need to navigate and manage as 2018 ASEAN Chair.”

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

Operationalising the Military Balance: Perception, Reality, and Stability in Southeast Asia

Dr Graham Ong-Webb *Research Fellow*

“This book project aims to fill a gap in the rigour and knowledge about military balances, with a focus on the balance in Southeast Asia. The term “military balance” is used quite loosely in current discussions about regional security. In the end, both the “perception” and “reality” of a military balance matters because it is the degree of misperception that lead states to underestimate (or over-estimate) the capabilities of others, distorting foreign policy positions and realising security dilemmas.”

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

Start : 01/05/2017

Duration: 75 weeks

Malaysia's Relations with the United States, China, and Japan

Mr David Han Guo Xiong *Senior Analyst*
Ms Chan Xin Ying *Research Analyst*

“This research project seeks to explore Malaysia's relations with three major powers in the Asia Pacific and the impact of such ties on South-east Asian geopolitics. Malaysia has traditionally sought to maintain an independent foreign policy vis-à-vis the United States and China, so as to preserve Malaysia's equidistance to these major powers, and work with other Southeast Asian countries to ensure that Southeast Asia safeguards its neutrality from great power rivalry. However, Malaysia faces both external and domestic issue that will pose challenges to Malaysia's policy of equidistance towards major powers. In recent years, Malaysia and Japan have been enhancing diplomatic relations and strengthening cooperation in both security and economic spheres. Japan's increased involvement in Southeast would add to the complexity of geopolitical dynamics in Southeast Asia. As such, this project will examine the aforementioned issues in Malaysia's relations towards these major powers and the implications on regional security architecture.”

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

Start : 24/05/2017

Duration: 40 weeks

Start : 01/04/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

Malaysia as a Conduit for Terrorism

Dr Mohamed Nawab Bin Mohamed Osman *Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Malaysia Programme*
Ms Arosoaie Aida-Mihaela *Senior Analyst*

“This project seeks to understand the presence of radicalised foreign nationals in Malaysia and the reasons why Malaysia is the preferred country for terrorist transit and mobilisation. The focus of the project will be on Uighur, Rohingya and Bangladeshi individuals. Malaysia as a conduit for terrorism is not a new phenomenon. In light of the recent security threats posed by Rohingya and Uighur in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, and Bangladeshis to Singapore, the project will investigate the reasons why Malaysia is the preferred destination for these individuals, what are the mobilising resources for these individuals and what socio-political settings in Malaysia facilitate their access to these resources. Moreover, the increased cooperation of radicalised Malaysians and Indonesians with both Uighurs and Rohingyas regarding the planning of terrorist attacks in the region highlight the need to understand these transnational linkages and how they affect the national security of countries in region as well as the diplomatic politics between SEA countries with China, Myanmar and Bangladesh.”

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

Start : 25/05/2017

Duration: 40 weeks

Defence and Security in Singapore: An Annotated Bibliography

Mr Ho Shu Huang *Associate Research Fellow*
Dr Samuel Chan *Adjunct Lecturer, Australian Defence Forces Academy, University of New South Wales*

“This project seeks to compile an annotated bibliography on defence and security issues focused on Singapore. This bibliographical database will be similar in form to the NTU Library Digital Project’s Singapore Literature in English: An Annotated Bibliography that was launched in 2008. Accessible on the Internet in the form of a searchable catalogue, the database of bibliographical entries will be organised by themes and keywords accompanied by abstracts. Additionally, information on where and how to access the document will be provided. Where possible, and copyright permitting, a soft copy of the document will also be available for download. Envisioned to be a living document, this database will be updated regularly, and users will also be able to suggest additions, as well as highlight any errors in existing entries.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
Singapore and Homeland Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/06/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

History and Memory in Contemporary China-Russia Relations

Dr Fengshi Wu *Associate Professor*

“This project aims to examine the efforts to (re) construct and revise history writing and collective memories by both Chinese and Russian governments in the recent decade. It will apply constructive theories and mixed research methods to unfold the interplay of foreign relations, state legitimacy and social agencies.”

theme Conflict and Stability /
Country and Region Studies
region East Asia and Asia Pacific /
Europe
entity IDSS

Start : 01/06/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

Territorial Sovereignty, Connectivity and State Formation: India's Northeast and Southeast Asia

Dr Sinderpal Singh *Senior Fellow*

“India’s Look East Policy (LEP) is often regarded as a crucial shift in Indian foreign policy. It seemingly marked the Indian state’s commitment to build stronger economic, political and strategic ties with the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). However, there is a sense that the Indian state has trepidations about India’s North East region (NER), which serves as India’s land border with Southeast Asia, playing a significant role in this project to build closer links to Southeast Asia. In fact, the relatively porous border between India and Myanmar in India’s NER is occasionally viewed more as a liability than an opportunity. This paper aims to examine “Indian” notions of territoriality, changes in India state formation and local (state level) perceptions of land connectivity and economic development. It generates some insight into the manner in which post-colonial states like India negotiate the economic demands of greater land connectivity with more conventional notions of territorial sovereignty.”

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

Start : 01/06/2017

Duration: 32 weeks

Malaysia in the Muslim World

Dr Mohamed Nawab Mohamed Osman *Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Malaysia Programme*
Mr David Han Guo Xiong *Research Analyst*

“This study seeks to examine Malaysia’s role in the Muslim world in recent years. Specifically, it will examine Malaysia’s Islamic diplomacy towards Muslim states in the international community, with a particular focus on the Middle East and the Southeast Asian region. This study will also explore how recent developments in domestic religious contestation have shaped Malaysia’s foreign policy, and vice-versa. As religion is playing an increasingly prominent role in international politics, this study will shed further insights on how religion shapes the international relations of Asia.”

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

Start : 24/06/2017

Duration: 40 weeks

Chinese Exceptionalism: A Framework to Interpret China’s Rise and International Relations

Mr Benjamin Ho *Associate Research Fellow*

“This study examines the concept of Chinese exceptionalism and how it frames China’s international relations, particularly its claims to being “different” and “good” compared to the Western-led international system. Among others, this study analyses how exceptionalist thinking is manifested in various aspects of China’s global interactions: (i) in its international relations theory, and (ii) in its self-identity and its national image. Empirically, it will look at China’s relations with its neighbours, relations with the diaspora as well as the Belt Road initiatives.”

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

Start : 01/07/2017

Duration: 104 weeks

Understanding the Emerging Convergence Among Indonesian Islamist Groups: Political and Security Implications

Dr Alexander R Arifianto *Research Fellow*

“This project aims to obtain an empirical understanding regarding the ideological and political convergence among Islamist activists from groups such as the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI) and Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia (HTI) with activists from moderate Islamic groups such as NU and Muhammadiyah. We will demonstrate through a number of case studies how do these groups able to develop alliances to enact Islamic [shari’a] regulations and promote religious intolerance within Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and East Java provinces. In addition, we will seek to analyse the extent by which these groups have infiltrated national and local institutions, such as public high schools and universities. Lastly, we seek to understand the strategies by which hardline activists plan their activities, ranging from traditional protest activities to social media discourses, and understand how they put their ideas into action. This project is scheduled to be completed at the end of March 2018.”

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

Start : 01/07/2017

Duration: 36 weeks

India-Myanmar Relations: Connectivity and Security

Dr Sinderpal Singh *Senior Fellow*

“One key aspect of India’s Look East Policy hinges on building greater land connectivity with Myanmar. More specifically, Myanmar has become, in recent years, a site for geo-political competition between India and China. This paper looks at how India is attempting to build closer ties with Myanmar in the context of China’s apparently overwhelming influence in Myanmar presently. It is informed, to a significant extent, by interviews conducted in Myanmar and India in August 2017.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability / Country and Region Studies / International Politics and Security / Non-Traditional Security / Regionalism and Multilateralism
region South Asia / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity IDSS

Start : 01/08/2017

Duration: 32 weeks

Malaysia’s Position in the Muslim World, Religio-political Foreign Policy of Malaysia vis-a-vis Saudi Arabia, Iran and Egypt

Mr Rashaad Ali *Research Analyst*
Mr Prashant Waikar *Research Analyst*

“This study seeks to examine the role of religion in Malaysia’s foreign policy in the Muslim World under the premiership of Najib Razak. Existing studies tend to portray Malaysia’s foreign policy decision-making as driven primarily by the elites and bureaucracy, and largely insulated from civil society and the general public. The project will also examine Malaysia’s relations with a number of key Muslim countries such as Iran and Saudi Arabia and also examine the country’s position in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. This project also investigates the connections between the education received in Egypt and Saudi Arabia to the socio-political agendas of individuals in Malaysia and to understand what are the factors that contributed to their perspectives. Essentially, the projects will address the international dimension of education to understand whether it functions as a vehicle of ideas and political agendas supported by foreign countries or socio-political actors in Malaysia.”

theme Country and Region Studies / Religion in Contemporary Society
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
entity IDSS

Start : 01/08/2017

Duration: 40 weeks

Niche Arms Exporters: A Successful Business Strategy for Singapore?

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

“Most countries cannot expect to be an across-the-board arms producer like the United States or Russia. Such nations must necessarily concentrate on certain core competencies, or niches, where they believe they have the best chance of success when it comes to developing and manufacturing technologically competitive military systems at a reasonable cost. At the same time, since domestic arms markets are usually not large enough to support efficient production, these countries must seek out foreign customers to help offset the costs of Research & Development and production. The intention is to come up with a list of “lessons learned” and suggestions how countries like Singapore might position themselves in the future for success as an arms exporter.”

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

Start : 01/08/2017

Duration: 10 weeks

The Malaysian Approach to Counterinsurgency (1963–1990)

Dr Ong Weichong *Assistant Professor*

“This proposed research project is a historical study of Malaysian counterinsurgency (COIN) strategy and practice against the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) and the North Kalimantan Communist Party (NKCP) during the 1963–1990 period. This study intends to elucidate the following three areas of historical significance: Why were there two distinct communist insurgencies in Malaysia; How did Malaysia defeat two separate communist insurgencies in two different geographical locations (Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo); the COIN response and strategy of Malaysia and to a lesser extent the counter-subversion strategy of Singapore to the CPM threat. The results of the research project will be published in a sole-authored book.”

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

Start : 01/11/2017

Duration: 156 weeks

Liquid Leg: India's Nuclear Doctrine and Strategic Stability at Sea

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

“This study challenges the prevailing wisdom in India and elsewhere that the sea leg of the nuclear triad is the *sine qua non* for stable deterrence because of the “invulnerability” of nuclear submarines. First, the belief that the land and air legs are insufficient for deterrence rests on flawed Cold War thinking. Second, there are significant risks associated with nuclear weapons at sea arising from lack of clarity with regard to red lines and difficulties pertaining to command and control. Together, these introduce significant elements of uncertainty in sea-based deterrence. On the other hand, it is arguable that, in the event deterrence fails, nuclear conflict at sea is less amenable to rapid escalation to war than nuclear conflict on/over land because of unclear red lines and, in some instances, if the theatre of conflict is distant from the homelands of the antagonists.”

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

Start : 01/12/2017

Duration: 18 weeks

Anti-Access/Area-Denial: Implications for Small States

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

“The Military Transformations Programme, in coordination with the Haifa Research Centre, intend to coordinate on a joint project on “anti-access/area-denial” (A2/AD) and its impact on and implications for small, strategically vulnerable states, such as Singapore and Israel. The intention is to explore how A2/AD affects both Israel and Singapore, in several aspects. These include:

- (i) how do A2/AD strategies undertaken by competitors adjacent or near Israel or Singapore affect their national security;
- (ii) conversely, how might Israel or Singapore leverage A2/AD strategies to their own benefits, i.e., in increasing their respective national securities;
- (iii) what enabling technologies or military systems contribute the most to A2/AD capabilities and strategies; and
- (iv) how might so-called “third offset strategies” systems and technologies affect A2/AD?

The final product would consist of an edited volume, supplemented, on an ad hoc basis, with policy briefs and memorandums specifically written for RSIS stakeholders.”

theme International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Europe
entity IDSS

Start : 02/01/2018

Duration: 10 weeks

Military Innovation in East Asia: Paths and Patterns

Dr Michael Raska *Assistant Professor*

“This book seeks to address emerging trends and developments when it comes to future warfare in East Asia. It will explore the likely future military domains, warfighting concepts, and subsequent military-technological priorities that could be the most critical in the next two decades. It considers what may constitute the next revolution in military affairs and when and how it might occur. Questions to consider include:

- (i) what is the role of new and emerging enabling technologies and their impact on warfighting in East Asia;
- (ii) what are the most likely kinds of armed conflict that we can expect in the next two decades;
- (iii) where is conflict most likely to occur;
- (iv) will armed conflict be more or less prevalent than now; and
- (v) 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 regional security and defence?”

theme International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Europe
entity IDSS

Start : 02/01/2018

Duration: 90 weeks

Russia and China's Military Doctrine: Continuity and Change

Dr Michael Raska *Assistant Professor*

With the increasing influence of Russia and China in the region, countries will require a keen understanding of the main pillars of Chinese and Russian strategies. For example, Russia's new generation warfare focuses on the employment of non-military instruments of national power in confrontation, asymmetric and indirect methods, and the de facto search for competitive advantages against much stronger adversaries. China's recent publication of “The Science of Military Strategy” articulated organising principles such as active defence and local wars under “informationised” conditions. Therefore, how can such thinking be applied to small nation states? Moreover, with the current geo-political landscape and 4th Industrial Revolution, how might their strategic thinking evolve; and what are the lessons that SAF can learn?

theme International Politics and Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Europe
entity IDSS

Start : 02/01/2018

Duration: 10 weeks

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



Islamic State Strategic Messaging & Recruitment: The Case of Nusantara in Southeast Asia

Mr Remy Mahzam *Associate Research Fellow*

“This study will examine the Islamic State’s recruitment strategy in Nusantara or Malay Archipelago, which includes Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore, through its jihadist propaganda and media outreach. The research will identify the recent tools, strategies and social networking platforms utilised by Daesh in their online, as well as offline outreach to the Nusantara region targeting the Southeast Asian audience. The unique aspect of this research is the examination of both violent and non-violent characteristics of Daesh narratives and propaganda methodology.”

theme Terrorism Studies / Singapore and Homeland Security
region Southeast Asia / Global
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/12/2016

Duration: 52 weeks

Chinese Modernisation Policies and its Impact on Uyghurs: A Causal Explanation of Uyghur Militancy 1990s-present

Ms Stefanie Kam *Associate Research Fellow*
Dr Rohan Gunaratna *Professor and Head of ICPVTR*

“This study aims to uncover the causes for the rise of ethnic nationalism among the Uyghurs in Xinjiang since the early and mid-1990s. In particular, the study will examine how Uyghurs have responded to Beijing’s state-led modernisation project aimed at fully integrating the Xinjiang region. Concepts of ethnicity and identity in political science, anthropology and sociology will be used in this study.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Country and Region Studies
region Central Asia / East Asia and Asia Pacific
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/01/2017

Duration: 48 weeks

Dynamics of Pro-Islamic State Network in Indonesia

V. Arianti *Associate Research Fellow*

“This paper will examine various extremist networks utilised by three prominent Indonesian Islamic State (IS) fighters — Bahrun Naim, Abu Jandal, and BahrumSyah — to carry out attacks in Indonesia. This paper will also look at the assistance these individuals have given to another pro-IS group Mujahidin Indonesia Timur. With reference to Marc Sageman’s framework of social network, this paper aims to assess whether his framework applies in this case, to what extent it offers an explanation of IS-led terrorism in Indonesia.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Terrorism Studies
region Southeast Asia
entity ICPVTR

Start : 17/01/2017

Duration: 26 weeks

A Threat Analysis of Southeast Asian Returnees from Syria and Iraq: A Look at Al Qaeda and Islamic State Recruits

Mr Jasminder Singh *Senior Analyst*

“The paper will assess the threat posed by Al Qaeda and Islamic State returnees from Syria and Iraq to countries in Southeast Asia. The paper aims to trace the status of these returnees and assess the threat they pose. Of particular interest to this paper is an assessment of how many such returnees have been incarcerated, re-incorporated into society or have joined other terrorist organisations.”

theme Terrorism Studies / Singapore and Homeland Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/02/2017

Duration: 24 weeks

Radicalisation of Women Jihadists: Case Studies of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan

Ms Sara Mahmood *Research Analyst*

“This research will focus on the female members of self-styled Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), discerning the nature of their participation against the backdrop of women’s roles in jihadism in the Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. By looking at specific case studies, the research will examine the processes of radicalisation for these women and the attraction of ISIS ideology within social context of the countries. In addition, the study will detail the possible evolution of their roles and importance to ISIS in the context of strengthening its *wilayats* [provinces] in light of the defeat within its strongholds in Iraq and Syria.”

theme Country and Region Studies / Terrorism Studies
region South Asia
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/02/2017

Duration: 25 weeks

The Rise of Uyghur Militancy in 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. First reports of Uyghur militants’ presence in Southeast Asia came out in September 2014 when Indonesian police arrested four Uyghurs attempting to link up with Indonesia’s pro-IS militant group named Mujahidin Indonesia Timor (MIT) in Sulawesi. Since then, at least 10 more Uyghurs were arrested or killed for their involvement in militant activities in Indonesia and Thailand.

Although they are ethnic Uyghurs from China, there are different push and pull factors, motives, ideological attachments and external linkages leading them to engage in militancy in Southeast Asia. This article aims to study the issue in greater detail to ascertain the level of the current threat posed by Uyghur militancy in the region.”

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

Start : 01/02/2017

Duration: 32 weeks

Wilayah Philippines: Are We There Yet?

Dr Jolene Jerard *Research Fellow and Deputy Head of ICPVTR*
Ms Nur Aziemah Azman *Associate Research Fellow*

“Scholars and intelligence community have contested the formation of an IS wilayah [province] in the Philippines. This paper will examine the complexities and impact if and when IS successfully secures a wilayah in Southeast Asia. Exploring the importance of the role of territory and the ambitions for a wilayah in Southeast Asia, the paper will shed light on challenges raised from misguided assessments that arise from misunderstood nomenclature, which has resulted in erroneous assessments that a wilayah has been formed in the Southern Philippines. Given the perpetuating conceptual myopia with sweeping generalisation of terminology, a more nuanced understanding of the threat will enable the security and intelligence community to effectively evaluate the threat and develop as astute response strategy.”

theme General / Terrorism Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/03/2017

Duration: 16 weeks

Countering ISIS Call for Hijra: Reviewing Hijra Through the Lens of Maqasid Ash-Shariah

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

“This research paper will focus on the notion of Hijra, which ISIS used to strengthen its rank and file. It will argue that modern jihadists’ 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. This paper will offer an ideological rebuttal strategy to counter ISIS’ call for Hijra, and will also attempt to address the ideological flaws in the call which Foreign Terrorist Fighters are unaware of.

- Submitted to JD Journal for Deradicalisation. Some revision is required. Submission dateline by mid-September 2017.”

theme Terrorism Studies /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region Global
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/04/2017

Duration: 16 weeks

Challenges in Counter Terrorism Work: The Notion of Syafaat [intercession]

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

“Islamic theology dictates there are individuals honoured by God to intercede his family members in the day of resurrection. A martyr is one of them. Undeniably, this has influenced many jihadi to believe that to perish in the course of jihad operation would land them this privilege. This paper will examine the notion of *Syafaat* [intercession] from classical Islamic text viewpoint. It seeks to explain how the concept is not only misunderstood and applied in the wrong context, jihadists on one hand and the confused public on the other often overlook strict criteria of arm jihad *vis-à-vis* martyrdom. Significantly, the paper will also identify this confusion as a challenge in counter-terrorism efforts.”

theme Terrorism Studies /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region Global
entity ICPVTR

Start : 25/04/2017

Duration: 16 weeks

How Radicalisation Happens: A Social Psychological Analysis

Dr Rohan Gunaratna *Professor and Head of ICPVTR*
Dr Arie W. Kruglanski *Professor, University of Maryland*
Dr Jocelyn J. Bélanger *Assistant Professor, New York University*

“In this book project, the authors will examine how radicalisation happens from the social psychological perspective. This book is based on the field research conducted with terrorists and their supporters.”

theme Terrorism Studies
region Global
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/05/2017

Duration: 48 weeks

Religion, Misogyny and Otherising in Pakistan

Ms Sara Mahmood *Research Analyst*

“The Al-Huda Institute was established in 1994 in Pakistan, as a mainstream Islamic religious school for women. The institute normalises violence through its patriarchal and exclusivist narratives where violence is moralised and legitimised against women and Shias. By drawing upon Arthur Deikman’s understanding of religious cults, this chapter will illustrate such normalisation with references to four factors: (i) compliance with a group; (ii) dependence on a leader; (iii) devaluing/dehumanising the outsiders; and (iv) elimination of dissent. This chapter will contend that Al-Huda creates a particular “Sunni Muslim female” identity that subjugates these women and further otherises the Shias. These narratives and worldviews lead a segment of the members to legitimise and internalise domestic violence and violence against Shias in Pakistan.

This research will be in the form of a chapter for an edited volume, *Normalising Violence: Case Studies*, edited by Dr Irm Haleem.”

theme General / Terrorism Studies
region South Asia
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/05/2017

Duration: 20 weeks

Women and Terrorism: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Ms Sara Mahmood *Research Analyst*
Dr Rohan Gunaratna *Professor and Head of ICPVTR*

“Despite the evident involvement of women in terrorism, the subject continues to be clouded by androcentric perspectives. This leads to a limited understanding of the important roles women possess within radical Islamist and non-Islamist groups, such as al-Qaeda and IS, and the Chechen Black Widows and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Not fully understanding the dimensions of women’s participation in terrorist groups impedes effective policymaking to curb their radicalisation processes. Hence, this edited book will bring together diverse perspectives and case studies from different countries/regions on women in extremist and terrorist groups to draw some key lessons challenging mainstream assumptions and present policies on the subject.”

theme Conflict and Stability /
Terrorism Studies
region Europe / South Asia / Southeast Asia /
Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
entity ICPVTR

Start : 15/05/2017

Duration: 50 weeks

Normalising Violence: Case Studies

Dr Irm Haleem *Assistant Professor and Manager (Research & Publications)*

“This is a multi-authored edited volume where Dr Haleem will serve both as both the editor and the author of the Introduction and Conclusion of the book. The various authors of the chapters in this volume will argue for or against the framework that Dr Haleem will present in the Introduction, which will comprise the arguments she forwards in her single-authored monograph, “Normalising Violence”.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Terrorism Studies
region Global
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/06/2017

Duration: 30 weeks

The Cow, Hindutva and Violence in India

Mr Mohammed Sinan Siyech *Research Analyst*
Ms Akanksha Narain *Visiting Fellow*

“Chapter for an edited volume, Normalising Violence: Case Studies, edited by Dr Irm Haleem. This chapter examines the public discourse on the cow as a sacred entity, which has influenced the legislation in India. It analyses the cow, which has been used to define the Indian identity as a defacto Hindu nationalism leading to xenophobia of minority groups such as Muslims and Christians along religious lines.

Thus, a new language and set of norms have entered the public discourse, which redefines “national” and “anti-national”. This redefining of national identity along religious lines has led to increasing intolerance towards these “other” groups, which in turn has given way to normalising violence against such groups.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
Regionalism and Multilateralism /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region South Asia
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/06/2017

Duration: 12 weeks

Rehabilitation: A Game Changer in Fighting Terrorism

Dr Rohan Gunaratna *Professor and Head of ICPVTR*
Ms Sabariah Mohamed Hussin *Research Analystz*

“This multi-authored edited volume aims to analyse the different approaches and modes of terrorist rehabilitation that have been employed by countries globally. A key emphasis of this research is to understand the various contexts in which these programmes were initiated and factors that determined their relative successes and failures. Each initiative is critically analysed to develop a comprehensive understanding of the different approaches and strategies of terrorist rehabilitation and their importance in aiding potential terrorists integrate back into the society. This project is relevant for governments and stakeholders implementing terrorist rehabilitation as a soft approach to countering violent extremism. This research is a contribution to the global policy debate on rehabilitation and counterterrorism strategies.”

theme Country and Region Studies / Cybersecurity /
International Politics and Security / Terrorism Studies /
Singapore and Homeland Security
region Global
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/08/2017

Duration: 35 weeks

Normalising Violence

Dr Irm Haleem *Assistant Professor and Manager (Research & Publications)*

“This project will be a short, single-authored monograph, previously listed as an article, but now expanded to a monograph. In this book, I will create the conceptual framework for understanding the “what is” of the normalising of violence, worldwide. It is the framework that I will create here that forms the structure of the multi-authored volume, edited by myself: *Normalising Violence: Case Studies* (as listed in the previous newsletter).”

theme Conflict and Stability / Terrorism Studies
region Global
entity ICPVTR

Start : 01/09/2017

Duration: 30 weeks

Terrorism on the New Silk Road: Challenges and Responses

Dr Rohan Gunaratna *Professor and Head of ICPVTR*
Mr Nodirbek Soliev *Senior Analyst*

“This is a co-authored book project that will examine the challenges arising from radical Islamist terrorist and insurgent groups operating in China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Russia. It will analyse the state and regional responses to such violence. More specifically, the book will cover developments from 1990s to the present time, thereby focusing on the era from the revival of Islam in Central Asia, to the rise of new generation of Islamist fighters in the Middle East.”

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

Start : 14/12/2017

Duration: 40 weeks

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



Exporting Jihad to the Philippines

Mr Joseph Franco *Research Fellow*

“[Book chapter for Palgrave Publishing, estimated publication date 1st Quarter of 2018]

The Southern Philippine island of Mindanao, beset by both communist and Muslim insurgencies, has enough troubles of its own without linkage to the global jihad of al-Qaeda and now ISIS. Yet jihadist propaganda and a small but influential group of “experts” regularly cite Mindanao as the westerly outpost of the global jihad. Immediately following 9/11, Mindanao was branded as the next Afghanistan — a potential sanctuary or breeding ground for international jihadists to thrive. The Abu Sayyaf Group, Maute Group, Ansar Al-Khilafah Philippines, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, among others regularly wrap themselves in the ISIS flag for the cameras, as their predecessors did with al-Qaeda. This chapter will critically dissect the claims and evidence of the nature of the Filipino connection to the jihad.”

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

Start : 02/03/2017

Duration: 50 weeks

The Threat of an ISIS Province in East Asia

Mr Joseph Franco *Research Fellow*

“Chapter for edited volume on book on identifying key learning points for practitioners and policy-makers before, during and after a terrorist attack.”

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

Start : 09/11/2017

Duration: 8 weeks

The Societal Reintegration of Prisoners Convicted of Terrorism Offences in Indonesia

Mr Cameron Sumpter *Associate Research Fellow*

“The societal reintegration of former prisoners convicted of terrorism offences is an often overlooked aspect of a state’s counter-terrorism policy portfolio. In Indonesia, several hundred people have been released from prison in the past 10 years after serving sentences for involvement in or support for terrorism. Both state agencies and civil society organisations have worked towards facilitating their successful transition back into society, but resources appear to be modest and recent cases of recidivism suggest that efforts may be falling short. The present study seeks to evaluate initiatives to reintegrate former terrorist prisoners with Indonesian society. It will attempt to gauge the specific problems faced by returning prisoners, as well as state and non-state efforts to address the difficulties of readjusting to normal life.”

theme Terrorism Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity CENS

Start : 01/02/2018

Duration: 6 weeks

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



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 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme*

Dr Tamara Nair *Research Fellow*

Ms Vishalini Chandara Sagar *Senior 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 crises 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

Future HADR Landscape in Asia: Structures and Mechanisms

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

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

Ms Hnin Nu Wai *Senior Analyst*

Ms Foo Yen Ne *Senior Analyst*

“This project aims to track the emergence of new humanitarian actors (both state and non-state) and to map particular successes, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in preparing for disaster relief and conflict response in the region. The project also focuses on the relationships between civilian and military actors and the emerging points of difference and convergence between the two in responding to HADR in the Asia Pacific. The project also evaluates the quality and impact of both military and civilian organisations’ emergency responses.”

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

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 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme*

Ms Hnin Nu Wai *Senior Analyst*

“This project aims to establish a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (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 / International Politics and Security / Non-Traditional Security /

Regionalism and Multilateralism

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

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

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

Mr Martin Searle *Associate Research Fellow*

“This project examines the field of humanitarian technology (HUMTECH) as applied to a broadly defined context of crises encompassing both natural disasters and conflict zones. This project seeks to identify the impact technology has on humanitarian responses as well as the emergent challenges of information technology, big data and technological innovations in humanitarian action.”

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

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

entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/04/2015

Duration: Multi-year

Mapping Regional Frameworks for Nuclear Energy Governance in the Asia Pacific

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

Mr Julius Cesar Trajano *Associate Research Fellow*

“The project explores pathways toward building a robust framework for nuclear energy governance in the Asia Pacific, including ASEAN. It has the following objectives:

1. To look into the nuclear energy plans of East Asian/ASEAN countries, including the construction of nuclear power plants in the region. Part of this objective is to identify the critical issues and challenges to NPP development in the region, with special focus on the safety, security and protection of nuclear facilities and radioactive materials.
2. To examine the regulatory frameworks on nuclear energy in ASEAN and the Asia Pacific. It includes understanding how international norms and frameworks on nuclear safety and security can inform regional nuclear governance cooperation in ASEAN, including the role of ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM).
3. To explore the feasibility of a “wider regional framework/blueprint for nuclear energy cooperation in the Asia Pacific”, building on some of the existing regional frameworks such as the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty, Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia, etc. This will be done through the participation of RSIS in Track 1.5/2 networks such as the CSCAP-Nuclear Energy Experts Group and International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN).”

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

region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN

entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/09/2015

Duration: 156 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 the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme*

Mr Chen Zhiming Christopher *Research Associate*

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

theme Country and Region Studies / International Politics and Security / Non-Traditional Security / Regionalism and Multilateralism

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 the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme*
Mr Chen Zhiming Christopher *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 Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security /
Non-Traditional Security / Regionalism and Multilateralism
region East Asia and Asia Pacific
entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/09/2016

Duration: 104 weeks

Assessing Gaps and Opportunities in Food Safety for Safer Food Production in ASEAN

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony *Associate Professor and Head of NTS Centre*
Mr Jose Ma Luis P. Montesclaros *Associate Research Fellow*
Dr Jorgen Schlundt *Professor and Director, NTU Food Technology Centre*

“This project aims to examine the current threats to food safety in ASEAN and explore ways to foster and enhance collaboration on food security. This project will produce a policy-relevant paper on how ASEAN as an institution, and its member states can address the types of food-borne diseases (FBD) that have plagued the region over the years. This is to be achieved by mapping out the ASEAN institutions involved in FBD management, and identifying gaps when compared to successful FBD management systems in countries/institutions such as Denmark and the European Union. This study will be limited to the top three to four diseases related to biotic factors (such as bacteria, parasites, and viruses), identified based on World Health Organization (WHO) Data. Literature review and stakeholder interviews will be done to provide insights on the ground. This research is being done in collaboration with the newly established NTU Food Technology Centre (NAFTEC).”

theme Non-Traditional Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/11/2016

Duration: 104 weeks

Emerging Peatland Governance in Tropical Southeast Asia: A Political Ecology Research

Dr Rini Astuti *Research Fellow*
Mr Jose Ma Luis P. Montesclaros *Associate Research Fellow*

“The aim of this research is to critically examine how “haze and peatland fires-free” policies are designed, prioritised, and implemented in Indonesia and negotiated in ASEAN. It aims to interpret Indonesia’s peatland restoration strategy as a form of eco-governmentality. This will be done by analysing the institutions, technologies and bodies of knowledge through which state and non-state actors seek to govern the behaviour of stakeholders in peatland areas. It will focus on the effects of policy interventions formed under peatland protection and restoration on business strategies of pulp & paper and palm oil industries in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, and how industries respond. Finally, it will look into how the same interventions affect the security of local communities’ livelihoods, and how these communities respond. This will involve identifying alternative commodities that smallholder farmers can grow in peat soils once restored to natural moist/wet conditions, and agricultural technologies that ensure that the alternative commodities are competitive and are able to provide economic livelihood in the long-run.”

theme Non-Traditional Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/11/2016

Duration: 104 weeks

Contributing to Food Security and Fulfilling Agriculture's Commercial Potential through Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Singapore

Dr Paul Teng *Professor and Adjunct Senior Fellow*
Mr Jose Ma Luis P. Montesclaros *Associate Research Fellow*

"Singapore imports more than 90 per cent of its total food consumption, and grows some quantities of eggs, fish and vegetables. There are plans of boosting these numbers, although any initiative will need to value-add to the country's economy and productivity. In order to be more food secure amid the limitation of space, the government has supported technologies such as vertical farming, and provided funding to help farmers upgrade practices. This study will look into the types of technologies that can be leveraged to boost farming's productivity, and allow for greater production within the limits of space, water and labour. It will further study the enabling environment for technology, focussing on the technology-policy interface. The first application is an exploration of agricultural technologies (agtech) applicable to urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA). There is a parallel collaboration with the Singapore Centre for Research in Innovation, Productivity and Technology (SCRIPT), Murdoch University, in assessing the viability of identified agtech, and the commodities they apply to."

theme Non-Traditional Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/12/2016

Duration: 104 weeks

Marine Environmental Protection Governance in the South China Sea: Prospects of Cooperation

Dr Rini Astuti *Research Fellow*
Dr Lina Gong *Research Fellow*
Ms Margareth Sembiring *Senior Analyst*
Mr Julius Cesar Trajano *Associate Research Fellow*

"This project will attempt to fill the research gap in the current policy debates and studies on the South China Sea disputes by examining marine environmental protection in this contested strategic sealane based on the existing literature and discussions. This project will explore the norms of marine environmental protection and regional cooperation as applied to the South China Sea. It will also highlight the importance of marine environmental protection as a shared responsibility of claimant states, ASEAN and relevant Dialogue Partners (e.g. Japan, China, the U.S., and Australia). It will explore the prospects of regional cooperation on marine environmental cooperation in the South China Sea and identify key issues that may hinder regional cooperation. It will likewise explore the applicability of current international environmental laws and conventions to the South China Sea, and how they can complement regional initiatives to protect the marine ecosystem in the disputed waters."

theme Non-Traditional Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/05/2017

Duration: 104 weeks

China's Greater Commitment to Global Governance: Implications for Governance of Non-traditional Security Issues in East Asia

Dr Lina Gong *Research Fellow*

"China's foreign policy has gradually shifted away from the principle of "keeping a low profile" to that of "achieving something" in recent years. A good example of this trend is China's greater commitment to issues of global concern like peace and conflict and climate change. There are different approaches to addressing global challenges and the existing system is influenced by values and norms of developed countries. This project will seek to understand China's approach to global governance, compare it with existing models, and examine the implications of China's expanded role in global governance. This research will also attempt to analyse how changes in China's foreign policy influence regional governance, like whether and how a more proactive China leads to opportunities for and/or challenges to strengthened China-ASEAN cooperation in governance of non-traditional security issues."

theme Country and Region Studies / Non-Traditional Security
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Global
entity NTS Centre

Start : 01/12/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

**Centre for Multilateralism Studies
(CMS)**



IMF = I'M Fired?: IMF Programme Participation and Workers' Rights

Dr Lee Su-Hyun *Assistant Professor*
Dr Byungwon Woo *Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Korea*

“This is a research project in collaboration with Professor Byungwon Woo at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Korea. We examine the effects of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 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 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 labour rights in both short term and long term. Utilising a labour rights dataset and the IMF labour market conditionality dataset for 89 countries, 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.

[Update] The paper was presented at the Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO)'s Annual Meeting in January 2017 at the University of Bern. We are currently checking the robustness of our findings with additional data sources.”

theme General / International Political Economy
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 15/11/2014

Duration: 171 weeks

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

Dr Pradumna Bickram Rana *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the International Political Economy 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: 160 weeks

Decentralising Financial and Development Architecture

Dr Pradumna Bickram Rana *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the International Political Economy 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 : 01/06/2016

Duration: 90 weeks

Global Shocks and the New Global and Regional Financial Architecture

Dr Pradumna Bickram Rana *Associate Professor and Coordinator of the International Political Economy Programme*
Dr Naoyuki Yoshino *Dean, ADBI*
Mr Peter Morgan *Consultant, ADBI*

“This book analyses the vulnerabilities of Asian economies to external economic and financial shocks and assesses the performance of Asian regional institutions in financial surveillance and cooperation. It also assesses the on-going reforms of the global financial architecture.”

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

Start : 01/06/2016

Duration: 90 weeks

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

Dr Lee Su-Hyun *Assistant Professor*

“Much previous research has identified ethnic diversity as one of the major factors explaining cross-national differences in economic growth and public policy outcomes. Diversity is negatively associated with various aspects of good governance, as it hinders the ability of a society to communicate on common goals and to sanction those who fail to cooperate. Then why are some countries more successful in overcoming the costs of ethnic division and providing more public goods than others? This paper argues that the relationship between diversity and public good provisions depends on domestic political institutions that shape the incentives and abilities of representative policymakers to serve broad, national constituencies. Using data on public policy outcomes and party politics in 78 countries for the period 1980-2015, the paper finds that high levels of party system nationalisation significantly mitigate the negative effects of diversity on public goods provision.

[Update: Additional tests are on-going.]

theme General / Country and Region Studies /
International Political Economy
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 15/06/2016

Duration: 88 weeks

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

Dr Kaewkamol (Karen) Pitakdumrongkit *Assistant Professor and Deputy Head of CMS*

“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.

[Update] An early draft of this project has been done, and our preliminary findings suggest that labour power and OFDI have an inverted-U relationship. Specifically, increasing labour power drives capital out of the country, but firms would tend to stay in an institutionalised environment where labour power is well-regulated.”

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

Why and Under What Conditions Are Women More Open to Foreign Direct Investment?

Dr Lee Chia-yi Assistant Professor
Dr Mi Jeong Shin Assistant Professor, Shanghai University of
Finance and Economics

“This project is co-authored with Dr Mi Jeong Shin at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. In this project we explore two questions: Is there a gender difference in the formation of FDI preferences?; What explains the gender gap and under what conditions is such gender gap wider? We argue that women are more open to FDI than men because multinational firms generally provide better working conditions and higher wages than domestic firms. In addition, this effect is conditional on a country’s level of economic development and sectoral composition. To test our argument, we use survey data across 38 countries. The preliminary results support our first hypothesis that women like FDI more than men.

[Update] A working paper was presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in September 2017 and the Taiwanese Political Science Association Annual Meeting in November 2017. More data analysis and revisions will be done based on the comments we have received.”

theme International Political Economy
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 10/5/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

Leader Time Horizons and the Rate of Natural Resource Extraction

Dr Lee Chia-yi Assistant Professor

“This project aims to explore what affects the pace of natural resource extraction and production. 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. This paper argues how leaders discount the future affects their decision of natural resource production. Specifically, if leaders have their power secured and expect a longer time horizon, they may want to save for the future, so they will extract natural resources at a slower pace. I test the theory using data on oil production and leaders’ time horizons, and find a negative effect of leader time horizons on the oil production growth rate. This finding is consistent with the literature that leaders’ time horizons may affect their policy preferences.

[Update] A working paper was presented at the 2017 ISA International Conference in Hong Kong in June and the APSA Annual Meeting in September. More revisions will be done based on the comments.

theme International Political Economy / Energy Security
region Global
entity CMS

Start : 01/06/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

Towards Better Governance Over Exchange Rate Management in East Asia

Dr Kaewkamol (Karen) Pitakdumrongkit *Assistant Professor and Deputy Head of CMS*

“This paper discusses one of the risks facing East Asia, which is a risk of currency manipulation, and offers policy recommendations to strengthen the exchange-rate management regime in the region. My project aims at answering the questions: “How to boost the regional governance over exchange rate management?”, and “How to develop or enhance institutional mechanisms to lessen the probability of currency manipulation?” Some practical policy options will be explored, including the improvements of certain aspects of the ASEAN+3 process (e.g. the functions of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Office). The issue of leadership (e.g. leadership by a single state, co-leadership by a few countries) would also be examined as this element is needed to achieve effective governance.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Political Economy /
Regionalism and Multilateralism

region East Asia and Asia Pacific / Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity CMS

Start : 01/07/2017

Duration: 20 weeks

Natural Disasters and Armed Conflict

Dr Lee Chia-yi *Assistant Professor*
Dr Yasutaka Tominaga *Waseda University*

“This is a collaborative project with Dr Yasutaka Tominaga at Waseda University. This study aims to test the causal mechanisms of how natural disasters affect the progress of armed conflict. We argue that a natural disaster reduces the value of future rents that militant members can obtain, and it also destructs the current flows of resources, thus diminishing resource supply to militant members. We will test our hypothesis using data on natural disasters and armed conflicts.

[Update] Preliminary data collection and literature review have been done. We are currently working on the first draft, which will be presented at the 2018 Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Non-Traditional Security /
Terrorism Studies

region Global
entity CMS

Start : 01/09/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

The Electoral Effects of Chinese Import Competition in the United States

Dr Lee Su-Hyun *Assistant Professor*

“Do trade issues affect voting behaviour? Relying on recent studies on the impact of Chinese import shocks, this research maintains that that international trade influences voter support for the incumbent party through its impact on local labour markets. Utilising data on the industrial composition of regional employment in the US and sectoral data on Chinese imports, I will analyse the effects of Chinese import penetration on US presidential elections from 1996 through 2016 at the level of local labour markets (i.e., commuting zones). My findings indicate that voters more exposed to trade with low-wage countries, here China, are less likely to support incumbent presidents and their party members. Anti-incumbent effects of Chinese imports, however, are much greater for the Democratic party than for the Republican party.

[Update] The preliminary findings were presented at the International Political Economic Society (IPES)'s Annual Meeting in November at the University of Texas, Austin.”

theme General / Country and Region Studies /
International Political Economy

region Americas
entity CMS

Start : 02/09/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

Missing Issues in International Bargaining: The Case of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

Dr Kaewkamol (Karen) Pitakdumrongkit *Assistant Professor and Deputy Head of CMS*

“This paper will ask “Why were certain issues missing in international agreements?” Using the case study of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC), I will show how two aspects of water resource management (WRM) cooperation, navigation and water quality, were excluded from the agreement. This can be explained by the states’ comparison between costs associated with issue inclusion and the costs stemming from no issue inclusion. Issue inclusion is an attempt to “bring a new issue into the discussion while, at the same time, leaving the current issues on the table”. I will contend that issue inclusion is more likely when the cost of policy adjustments is lower than the cost of no agreement. However, issue inclusion is less likely when the cost of policy adjustments exceeds that of no agreement. My study will contribute to the negotiation and WRM literatures and suggest lessons for policymakers in the area of WRM cooperation.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Political Economy / Energy Security /
Non-Traditional Security / Regionalism and Multilateralism
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity CMS

Start : 01/11/2017

Duration: 20 weeks

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



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

Dr Mohamed Bin Ali *Assistant Professor*

“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

Dr Paul Hedges *Associate Professor*
Dr Hue Guan Thye *Contract Researcher*
Ms Nurshella 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

Buddhist Diplomacy

Dr Paul Hedges *Associate Professor*

“This will be an exploration of the way that religious cultural capital is employed in soft power relations in Asia. Particular attention is paid to the Nalanda University project as well as recent Chinese moves to use Buddhism as a source of soft power and for wider diplomatic work. This will include recent comments by President Xi Jinping and other high profile leaders in relation to the Belt and Road strategy. Some aspects of the history and regional context is explored, alongside the way that largely secular nations make use of religion in such ways. A journal article looking at the soft power of Buddhist Diplomacy as employed by largely secular states will be explored. Further work will be done looking at ways that Buddhist resources may be utilised in developing diplomacy with a particular Buddhist focus in this area.”

theme Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security /
Regionalism and Multilateralism /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region East Asia and Asia Pacific / South Asia /
Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity SRP Programme

Start : 01/02/2017

Duration: 52 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 that 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 regarding 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 justify their hatred and enmity of the Religious Others using Quranic verses and Islamic traditions. In particular, this research studies the contents of Surah or Chapter of Al-Mumtahanah, the sixtieth chapter of the Quran and shows how the Quran, and particularly this and the concept of Millat Ibrahim [Religion of Abraham] play an important role in formulating the Muslim extremists perception of the Religious Other.”

theme Terrorism Studies / Religion in Contemporary Society
region Middle East and North Africa (MENA) / Global
entity SRP Programme

Start : 01/03/2017

Duration: 48 weeks

Countering Contemporary Jihadism and Violence: Myths, Realities and Solutions

Dr Mohamed Bin Ali *Assistant Professor*

“This paper will propose to weed out the myths from the realities regarding 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, and to show how it has evolved into the more violent strain of jihadism and establish both as aberrations to Islam. It will also examine the use of force in Islam: Is it 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 organisations 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 : 01/05/2017

Duration: 48 weeks

Conceptualising the Problem of Radicalisation: Contemporary Trends and Theories

Dr Paul Hedges *Associate Professor*

“Recent research on radicalisation is pointing towards a set of pathways that may lead people towards terrorism. However, scholars such as Marc Sageman, Olivier Roy, Gilles Kepel and others are stressing different aspects as the key factor or factors. Their analyses are not necessarily contradictory, but highlight that searching for a single magic key to unlock what radicalisation is may be problematic. Indeed, even the very term radicalisation may itself not help to clarify what is at stake, if it suggests it is something other than socialisation into a specific worldview. This project seeks to pick apart and assist rethinking the current empirical and theoretical data and analysis.”

theme Terrorism Studies / Singapore and Homeland Security / Religion in Contemporary Society
region Europe / Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Global
entity SRP Programme

Start : 01/05/2017

Duration: 104 weeks

Muslims in Plural Societies — Singaporean Muslims' Views of Secularism as State Ideology and its Reconcilability with Islam

Ambassador Alami Musa *Head of SRP Programme*
Mr Salim Mohamed Nasir *Associate Research Fellow*
Ms Nursheila Muez *Research Analyst*

“A study conducted in 2010 on the religious outlook of Singaporean Muslims provided strong evidence that they possess social ethos that are conducive for living under non-Syariah [non-religious] laws. A high percentage of respondents felt that they could live as good Muslims under civil laws and fully participate in secular-modern institutions. However, the responses to questions on religious understanding appear to contradict the responses to questions on social behaviour. This study aims to establish if there is a degree of cognitive dissonance and scepticism that exists in the Singaporean Muslim community and if they do, to identify the factors that have led to such a situation. It will also attempt to investigate the absence or extent of reconcilability (if it exists) between secularism with Islam in the Singapore context.”

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

Start : 01/07/2017

Duration: 72 weeks

**National Security Studies
Programme (NSSP)**



Non-Violent Extremism and Violent Extremism: A Nexus?

Dr Kumar Ramakrishna *Associate Professor, Head of Policy Studies and Coordinator of NSSP*

“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: 104 weeks

Understanding the ISIS Threat to Southeast Asia

Dr Kumar Ramakrishna *Associate Professor, Head of Policy Studies and Coordinator of NSSP*

“To examine the modalities and evolution of the ISIS Threat to Southeast Asia, such as the returning foreign fighters, organised regional groups pledging allegiance to ISIS, and the challenge of self-radicalised lone wolves empowered by extremist ideology online. Potential counter-measures by the relevant stakeholders will also be discussed.”

theme Terrorism Studies / Singapore and Homeland Security / Religion in Contemporary Society
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Global
entity NSSP

Start : 01/03/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

The Mental Illness-Violent Extremism Nexus: Implications for Southeast Asia

Dr Damien D. Cheong *Research Fellow*

“Some of the ISIS-inspired attacks over the last five years have been carried out by individuals with mental disorders. This has brought the mental illness-violent extremism nexus to the fore. The debate “rests on the question about whether the presence of a mental health diagnosis is enough to state that it was a driver of the radicalisation-linked behaviour or whether it was just one ingredient in the individual’s vulnerability profile and grievance structure.

This study aims to answer these questions, and in so doing, contribute to the on-going discussion of a highly complex subject. It argues that the most challenging aspect when dealing with this issue is determining the triggers that push the individual to commit the act of violence. These triggers need not be instigated by ISIS or an ideologue, but simply through regular news feeds that highlight humanitarian crises involving a particular religious group.”

theme Terrorism Studies / Singapore and Homeland Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Global
entity NSSP

Start : 01/07/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

Reducing Misinformation Dissemination in Senior Citizens: Education, Technology and Nudging

Ms Stephanie Neubronner *Associate Research Fellow*

“Sharing of unverified information or misinformation through social media apps is common. In most cases, the person sharing the dubious text/link is motivated by good intentions. Perceptual and behavioural changes that occur as a result of believing such misinformation is of significant concern, especially when they have adverse consequences on national security. Although many senior citizens in Singapore are technologically knowledgeable, they are also “guilty of propagating unverified information, such as political gossip or dubious health tips on social platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp”. This study will examine the phenomenon in greater detail, and suggest tangible approaches that involve education, technology and nudging.”

theme Singapore and Homeland Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity NSSP

Start : 30/09/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

**Science and Technology
Studies Programme (STSP)**



Nuclear Energy in Asia: Safety, Security and Safeguards Implications for Singapore

Mr Nandhakumar Gunasekaran *Senior Analyst*
Dr Wu Shang-su *Research Fellow, IDSS*

“Nuclear energy is increasingly becoming a hot topic in Asia’s energy landscape. China and India are leaders in this field while other states in East and South Asia are at varying stages of development or debates. Although relevant to international nuclear security and safeguards, North Korea’s developments are of a different nature. Nuclear energy developments in East and South Asia warrant a closer look as they are underpinned by the political, security, environmental and economic commons they share with neighbouring Southeast Asia. This study will examine the implications to Singapore from the perspectives of nuclear safety, security and safeguards as developments in the wider Asian region would be instructive to Singapore should nuclear energy become a reality in Southeast Asia, where there are continuing efforts towards introducing nuclear into the energy mix.”

theme Country and Region Studies / Energy Security /
Cybersecurity, Biosecurity and Nuclear Safety /
International Politics and Security /
Singapore and Homeland Security

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

entity STSP and IDSS

Start : 01/10/2017

Duration: 16 weeks

Novel Psychoactive Substances and Counter-measures

Dr Tan Teck Boon *Research Fellow and Coordinator of STSP*

“This policy brief examines what novel psychoactive substances are and the measures to curb their use. Using a mixed research methodology, it not only sheds light on what these dangerous substances are but also how their trafficking can be stopped. In the West, the use of novel psychoactive substances has risen sharply in the last decade; hence, there is a pressing need to understand what these highly addictive substances are and what impact they might have, especially in the local context. By presenting a number of viable countermeasures, this policy brief will also add to the on-going public policy discourse on novel psychoactive substances with a functional set of solutions for policymakers.”

theme Singapore and Homeland Security
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity STSP

Start : 01/12/2017

Duration: 6 weeks

Others



Creating Frankenstein: The Saudi Export of Wahhabism

Dr James M. Dorsey *Senior Fellow*

“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 that cloaks itself in a puritan interpretation of Islam, the kingdom went on the warpath. In doing so, it turned Wahhabi proselytisation 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 /
International Political Economy / Terrorism Studies

region Central Asia / Europe / South Asia

entity RSIS

Start : 01/10/2015

Duration: 182 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*
Mr Prashant Waikar *Research Analyst*

“In 2017, the series covered the issues of democratic governance and religious minorities, the rise of Islamism and its threat to pluralism, blasphemy related violence and the securitisation of religious freedom. Irfan Ahmad discussed India’s Muslim minority and its over-representation in jail, despite government plans of “inclusive development”. Following the controversial gubernatorial elections in Jakarta in 2017, another topic of interest was the prospect of pluralism in Indonesia in light of recent Islamist activism. Prof Ebrahim Moosa proposed we rethink Muslim political theologies to understand and tackle blasphemy and its instigation to violence. Dr Matthew Nelson looked comparatively at Pakistan and Malaysia to illustrate the tension between religious freedom and public order, whereby non-violent personal beliefs securitised by the state lead to the derogation of fundamental rights. The series will resume in 2018 with a focus on the conflict in Southern Philippines and Uyghur identity politics in China.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability /
Country and Region Studies /
Religion in Contemporary Society

region Central Asia / East Asia / South Asia /
Southeast Asia and ASEAN /
Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

entity RSIS

Start : 26/01/2016

Duration: 112 weeks

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 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: Multi-year

Southeast Asia After the Cold War: Order and Regionalism

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

Religious Nationalism and Constitutional Amendment in Contemporary Japan

Dr Naoko Kumada *Research Fellow*

“The purpose of this project is to understand the meaning of Constitutional amendment that is being proposed in Japan today. It aims to understand what the movement to amend and replace the Constitution is about, who the people pushing the movement are, and where it is coming from. They are crucial for understanding where Japan will be going.”

theme Conflict and Stability / Country and Region Studies /
International Politics and Security /
Religion in Contemporary Society
region East Asia and Asia Pacific
entity RSIS

Start : 01/07/2016

Duration: 72 weeks

Shifting Loyalties and New Political Trends in East Malaysia

Dr Farish (Badrol Hisham) Ahmad-Noor *Associate Professor and Coordinator of 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: 38 weeks

America's Early Political and Economic Presence in Southeast Asia; 1800-1900

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

“This book project is scheduled to be published by Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam in 2018. The work looks at America's early contact with Southeast Asia prior to the American invasion and conquest of the Philippines, and focuses on how America's early contact with Southeast Asia framed and shaped what could be called 'American Orientalism'.”

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

Start : 03/01/2017

Duration: 34 weeks

In Search of the Singapore Identity

Mr Han Fook Kwang *Senior Fellow*

“This research will explore issues arising out of Singapore's search for its identity. It will discuss what constitutes the Singapore identity, how has it changed, if any, what accounts for the change, why did the change occur, and what are the implications for the future.

Singapore's search for identity is not taking place in isolation but against a global backdrop where issues of identity are coming to the fore. In Europe and the U.S., there has been a resurgence of public sentiment towards stronger national identities. Brexit and the election of President Donald Trump in the U.S. were examples of this, as is the rising strength of nationalistic, right wing parties in Europe.

The research will discuss Singapore's identity in this global context. It will also explore the issue of identity in the following areas: (i) economic identity; (ii) cultural identity; (iii) political/social identity; and (iv) international identity.”

theme General / International Political Economy
region Global / Southeast Asia
entity RSIS

Start : 01/02/2017

Duration: Multi-year

Saudi Arabia's Wrecking Ball: Pushing Pakistan to the Brink

Dr James M. Dorsey *Senior Fellow*

“Saudi Arabia's Wrecking Ball is an in-depth look at the devastating impact of Saudi Arabia's ability to weave Sunni Muslim ultra-conservatism into the fabric of key Pakistani institutions, including its military, intelligence apparatus, and ministries of religious affairs, education and interior; and significant segments of its society. This book will tell the story of Saudi penetration of Pakistan since the 1950s and how successive Pakistani leaders abetted and aided the kingdom's effort. It is also the tale of a successful Saudi effort to put Sunni Muslim ultra-conservatism on the world map. This is in a bid to foster anti-Shiite and anti-Iranian sentiment at the cost of increased sectarianism that threatens the social fabric of societies and fosters intolerance towards minorities and anti-Western sentiment, and creates environments that are potential breeding grounds for extremism and violence.”

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

Start : 01/07/2017

Duration: 104 weeks

The Gulf Crisis: Small States Battle It Out

Dr James M. Dorsey *Senior Fellow*

“Buried in the Gulf crisis is a major development likely to reshape international relations as well as power dynamics in the Middle East. The coming out of small states capable of punching far above their weight with Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, a driver of the crisis, locked into an epic struggle to rewrite the region's political map.”

theme General / Conflict and Stability / Country and Region Studies / International Political Economy / International Politics and Security / Terrorism Studies
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN / Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
entity RSIS

Start : 01/08/2017

Duration: 52 weeks

Book on Three Tours as a Diplomat in Singapore's Embassy in Moscow between 1994 and 2013

Mr Chris Cheang *Senior Fellow*

“Overall, the book will touch on my life and work in Russia between 1994 and 2013. It will cover the major events there and my assessment of them then, my personal experience of life there, its relationship to the state of the country, as well as the development of our bilateral relations.”

theme General
region Europe
entity RSIS

Start : 01/11/2017

Duration: 44 weeks

SEATO: A History

Associate Professor Ang Cheng Guan *Head of Graduate Studies*

“This is an attempt to revisit the history of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation from its formation to its demise in 1977. The majority of writings on SEATO were published between the 1950s and 1980s. There is only one single-authored study of SEATO (published in 1983) which covers the complete life cycle of the organisation. A new study of SEATO was published in 2012 after a long hiatus. However, this account focuses mainly on developments up to 1965. My monograph/two-year book project will fill a gap in the historiography of the international history and politics of Southeast Asia during the Cold War years. Now that we have the primary/declassified archival sources, then not available to the authors writing in the earlier decades, it is perhaps worth revisiting the organisation for a better understanding of it.”

theme General
region Southeast Asia and ASEAN
entity GPO

Start : 01/01/2018

Duration: 104 weeks