

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
A Review of 2021



RSiS

Special 25th Anniversary Edition

RESEARCH • EDUCATION • NETWORKING

“Ponder the Improbable”

At IDSS, Mr Nathan insisted on research being policy-relevant. He exhorted faculty and research staff to “ponder the improbable”. His international outlook and foreign policy background led to an emphasis on networking, which has contributed to knowledge sharing between RSIS and think tanks from all over the world, and to RSIS’ standing as a critical node in the international network of think tanks and academic institutions dealing with strategic and security studies.

From ClassACT (A monthly e-magazine of the Alumni Affairs Office, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), December 2011
<http://enewsletter.ntu.edu.sg/classact/Dec11/Pages/cn3.aspx>

See pull-out section

Selected Essays

- Vanity and Bias: The “Cold War” Redux?

*By Dr Chang Jun Yan
Research Fellow and Acting
Head of Military Studies
Programme in IDSS*

- Maritime Southeast Asia 2021

*By Ms Jane Chan
Senior Fellow and Coordinator
of the Maritime Security
Programme in IDSS*

- Japan Amid the US-China Competition: “Smart-Power” Foreign Policy

*By Dr Bhubindar Singh
Associate Professor and Head
of Graduate Studies at RSIS*

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Message

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong
Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS,
Director, IDSS

Year 2021 marked the 25th anniversary of RSIS, initially set up as IDSS in 1996. Twenty-five years on, the three pillars of RSIS - Research, Education, Network - stand strong.

Research analyses anchor the intellectual basis of RSIS as a think tank. We ponder the improbable and work on relevant issues with other concerned bodies, in and out of Singapore, and offer considered views on Singapore's national security and strategic policy. Our research output continues, regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic and of changing circumstances. RSIS remains nimble and contributes to a future-ready academic and policy environment.

Education at our graduate school continues, online and in-person, toggling between mediums to suit the COVID-19 safe distancing guidelines. Regardless of medium or mode of instruction, RSIS offers international education with diversity and a Singapore perspective. Over time, we have nurtured, and are still nurturing, a community of scholars and practitioners grounded on rigorous academic experiences and forward-looking preparedness.

Connecting through our networks, students and scholars come together in unique settings to debate ideas, innovate learning, and share their creativity. As a knowledge partner, RSIS brings to the table expertise from a varied pool of Singaporean and international talents who exchange perspectives and solutions on challenges facing Singapore and the global village. The pandemic has opened opportunities for us beyond onsite, in-person conferences to hybrid modes combining both in-person presence and virtual participation on a variety of digital platforms.

Underpinning the three pillars is resilience. Our resilient staff members have adjusted to the abnormal, and have performed well, whether in research, in teaching, or in administrative support for RSIS activities. At the same time, RSIS scholars and researchers have continued networking with other think tanks and institutes, participating in the marketplace of ideas.

For example, they have kept up their respective competitive bids for grants in doing research. As we declare often, "life goes on!". A big "THANK YOU" to all in RSIS.

Nevertheless, after 25 years, it is time to take stock and review. We are embarking on new research. As science and technology open up new horizons, what does it mean for national security and social cohesion in diverse societies? As geopolitics shifts, how does it affect norm-setting and rule-making in the global multilateral context? As huge glaciers melt, as the climate gets more extreme, what are the implications on inter-state relations, and potential conflicts over natural resources, and ultimately, on international and national security?

RSIS looks ahead to more opportunities and the sunrise issues while staying rooted on the mainstay of our successful growth to date, and our continued relevance to national policy-making.

As we look to the future, we will consolidate our resources, widen our networks, and strengthen our educational programmes in tandem with the growth of Nanyang Technological University as a top-ranking university in the world.

We remember and thank those who have been supportive of RSIS the past 25 years, and we hope more of the like-minded will join RSIS networks to enable us to grow further and stronger.

Message

Professor Ralf Emmers
Dean, RSIS

President's Chair in International Relations,
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



The COVID-19 crisis has left its mark on RSIS activities in the academic years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. The faculty and the graduate teaching staff had to successfully overcome the major challenges created by the new hybrid teaching paradigm and the travel restrictions affecting all RSIS international students.

The third trimester of Academic Year 2020-2021 saw the rapid transition of all Masters' classes taught on campus to fully online teaching via Microsoft Teams and Zoom platforms, once heightened COVID-19 measures were announced in Singapore in May. The Graduate Programmes Office worked closely with the teaching team to ensure a seamless transition and minimise any disruption to our students' education and graduation timelines. The students themselves demonstrated extraordinary resilience and determination to adapt to the new circumstances and overcome the difficulties posed by the sudden absence of classroom interactions in the critical last two weeks of their studies. Led by the RSIS Student Board, they also successfully organised an online Graduate Student Conference attended by more than 40 participants on 22 May 2021.

With all NTU convocation ceremonies postponed due to the pandemic, the class of 2021 marked the occasion of their graduation online as well, with the RSIS Virtual Graduation Celebration taking place on 10 July with more than 100 students and faculty in attendance. The in-person Convocation Ceremony was held on 29 September 2021 when we honoured our graduates' achievements over the past academic year.

In academic Year 2021-2022, RSIS Master's programmes have continued to attract a cosmopolitan student body with increasingly diverse educational, professional, and cultural backgrounds. Over 200 students from 33 countries enrolled in RSIS degrees in July 2021. Seventeen students were offered scholarships and study awards in AY2021-2022, including the RSIS Scholarship, the Lee Foundation Scholarship, and Student Research Assistantships. Two new PhD students also joined RSIS.

Our new international students showed great resolve to travel to Singapore amidst worldwide travel restrictions and quarantine requirements and complete all the necessary procedures in time for the start of the academic year. Most of them have now joined our local students for classes on campus, coping well with the new normal governed by strict safe distancing measures and mask wearing.

On the research front, the past year has been a fruitful one for our research endeavours. Faculty and research staff have continued to publish through prestigious scholarly and academic channels. They have also shared their views through various policy outlets as well as opinion sources in a series of publications.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the faculty and staff of RSIS for their immense contributions over the last year.

I hope you enjoy reading our Review of 2021.

Introduction to RSIS

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a global think tank and School of graduate education offering Master of Science Programmes in Strategic Studies, International Relations, International Political Economy, and Asian Studies. Its five Research Centres and two Research Programmes, led by the Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman, and assisted by the Dean on the academic side, drive the School's research, education, and networking activities.

RSIS is consistently ranked among the top regional think tanks by international publications. Analyses and thought pieces by RSIS scholars and researchers are regularly featured in reputable publications, top-tier journals, and online platforms. Commissioned reports from RSIS are shared with policymakers and stakeholders, and in some cases, these have been used to launch further studies or specific projects with other partner organisations.

Over the past 25 years, RSIS has expanded its research horizon to cover counter-terrorism and extremism, national security and defence issues, traditional and non-traditional security issues, interreligious studies, economic multilateralism, and regional economic integration. Increasingly, RSIS research delves into the emerging cross-cutting issues and technological developments having strategic impact and potential disruptive national and international security implications.

Research in RSIS covers two main areas – traditional and evolving. Under traditional areas:

- The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) covers the Asia Pacific, Military and Security: regional architecture to manage rivalries among major powers; maritime security; Indo-Pacific visions of major powers and response by ASEAN; politics and religions in Malaysia and Indonesia, and implications for Singapore; impact of geopolitics and technology competition;
- The International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) focuses on terrorism and extremism;
- The Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) covers radicalisation studies; social resilience and homeland defence; cybersecurity, cyber governance and norms; impact of social media and online falsehoods/manipulation; technology competition and implications for Singapore;

- The Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS) focuses on international political economy and role of multilateral organisations: ASEAN and its community building, economic integration and rules making; WTO trade negotiations and role played by national parliaments and other stakeholders, WTO's future in the existing multilateral trading system.

Under evolving areas:

- The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) researches into HADR and policymaking; climate change and implications for food security; marine pollution and environmental protection; nuclear energy and ASEAN cooperation; migration; peace and security, and impact on ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community building;
- The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme focuses on inter-religious relations;
- National Security Studies Programme (NSSP);
- Futures Issues and Technology (FIT).

RSIS produces both academic and policy-relevant research on strategic and international affairs. The School publishes scholarly research in top-tier academic journals and leading university presses, and distribute policy research in a timely manner to a wide range of readers. Relevant RSIS research contributes to rule-making and norm-setting in cyber domain and digitalisation. A strategic research area is the technological competition between China and the United States of America in the context of their geopolitical and security contestation.

RSIS researchers participate in deliberations at significant global and regional discussions on security and international affairs, such as the Shangri-La Dialogues, Council of Councils meetings, Trilateral Commission Conferences, and Halifax International Security Forums.

“ The Asia Pacific has its share of flashpoints that have the potential for creating regional instability, through triggering clashes of interests among the three big powers (China, Japan, and the US). These strategic developments and the existence of flashpoints around us will dominate the current dynamics of our strategic environment.

The establishment of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies will enable scholars and students to research and test ideas on the impact and implications of this rapidly changing strategic environment for Singapore's security. ”

Dr Tony Tan,
then Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Defence, at the launch
of IDSS in July 1996

Building the Foundations

Setting up IDSS

Before the inauguration of RSIS in 2007, it was known as the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS). By establishing the IDSS in 1996, then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Dr Tony Tan wanted to inform policymakers of the political uncertainty in the Asia Pacific region arising from the post-Cold War era, and the possible implications of this uncertainty on Singapore's security and defence. The late President S R Nathan was selected to head the institute, thanks to his vast experience in confronting geopolitical issues. Dr Tony Tan, the 7th President of Singapore, is the Chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors.

Mr Nathan set out to build an institution that differed from its local and overseas counterparts. The local think tank scene was then still relatively underdeveloped and a handful of thought centres focused mainly on domestic issues. IDSS was envisioned to be an institution that taught graduate level courses which could generate strategic insights on how to navigate the intricate world where security, defence, and politics intersect. Mr Nathan quickly helped IDSS establish its beginnings as a graduate education institution by assisting it to launch its first programme, the Master of Science in Strategic Studies, in 1998.

Mr Nathan created the motto "Ponder the Improbable", and insisted that all research be policy-relevant. The motto is indicative of the demands of cognitive rigour expected of staff and students in the course of their research or lessons.



(L-R) Prof Su Guanng, then President of NTU Singapore, Mr S R Nathan, 6th President of Singapore and Founding Director of IDSS, Dr Andrew Chew, First Chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors, Amb Barry Desker, then Dean of RSIS, at the IDSS 10th Anniversary Dinner and launch of RSIS, 11 December 2006

Nurturing and Growing the School

IDSS introduced two new programmes and Centres between 1999 and 2006: the Master of Science in International Relations and the Master of Science in International Political Economy programmes, as well as the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) and the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS).

During that period, the region entered a new geopolitical landscape. The September 11 attacks and outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, had changed the way nations looked at security, defence, and politics. Mr Nathan himself felt that the existence of IDSS was timely in the light of these events, as it became imperative to develop a "sophisticated understanding" of the forces at work in the world.

In 2007, RSIS was inaugurated, signifying the maturation of IDSS as a research institute. IDSS remains a prominent research centre within RSIS.

The school was named after Mr S. Rajaratnam in recognition of his contributions to Singapore as its first Foreign Minister. Mr Rajaratnam helped Singapore gain entry into the United Nations, and built up the Foreign Service. Essentially, he paved the way for Singapore's international relations from the country's earliest days of independence.

“

At the inauguration of IDSS in July 1996, I explained what I thought should be the purpose of the Institute. First, to develop, and in due time, nurture a core of knowledgeable scholars engaged in the continuous study of questions of strategic interest to Singapore and the region around us. I had hoped that the Institute would “in due time develop... expertise to seek answers, and develop persuasive tools, to address complex problems of diplomacy and security” so that they can help us understand how best to limit the risks in an unpredictable world.

”

Mr S R Nathan,
6th President of Singapore; and
Founding Director of IDSS,
at the launch of RSIS, 11 December 2006

“

IDSS had a dual mission as both a think tank and a teaching institute. Mr Nathan went about developing both wings very carefully and methodically. Despite his vast experience and seniority, he was very humble and very cognizant of his strengths and limitations, always ready to learn and engage others who know more than him. He was naturally very much more familiar with the think tank side of IDSS, given his years of experience in defence and foreign affairs. Even then, one of the first things he did was to visit some of the very established think tanks in the neighbourhood, the UK and the United States, to introduce IDSS, and to learn how they function.

”

Prof Ang Cheng Guan,
pioneer IDSS staff and current
Associate Dean of RSIS,
in *Remembering S R Nathan:
A Mentor for All Seasons.*

Adapted from Alan Chong, "Chapter 1: The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at 20: Enhancing Intellectual Capital and Quiet Diplomacy", *Forward Engagement: RSIS as a Think Tank of International Studies and Security in the Asia-Pacific (Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Company, 2017)*, pp. 3-8

Reflections over the Years

Professor Khong Yuen Foong

Li Ka Shing Professor of Political Science at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.

He was in RSIS from July 1998 to March 2015, first as IDSS Deputy Director, then as Director from August 1999 till October 2000. He remained as Senior Research Adviser to IDSS till March 2015.



tone was set and I would like to think that we made a good start on placing IDSS-RSIS on the regional and global research map.

Related to this attempt of instilling a research culture of excellence was having Professor Stephen Walt of the Harvard Kennedy School visit as the inaugural S. Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies on my invitation. Widely acknowledged as one of the world's top strategic studies scholars, Prof Walt's stint at IDSS inspired students and faculty, allowed policymakers to get to know him and his work, and helped put IDSS on the security studies map. Prof Walt's visit and his positive impression of IDSS—he placed a Straits Times write up of his IDSS stint in the Harvard Kennedy School notice board for all to view—greatly facilitated our ability to attract the best scholars—from Wang Jisi to John Mearsheimer to Peter Katzenstein—to spend time with us as S. Rajaratnam Professors. For a young institution, having the opportunity to learn from and interact with these “greats” and others who have followed them, was a tremendous boon.

If I could identify one idea for RSIS to consider in the future, it would be this: would it make sense to leverage RSIS having a critical mass of faculty and researchers to become the undisputed “go to” place for international relations research and studies in Singapore and Asia?

If I could single out one achievement during the two years when I was at IDSS and lived on the NTU campus, it would be inculcating a research culture that emphasised scholarly excellence. IDSS, like RSIS today, was an unusual institution in being both a think tank and a teaching outfit. As a think tank, we were tasked with doing policy-relevant research on defence and foreign policy issues of interest to Singapore and the region; as a teaching outfit, we offered a Master of Science in Strategic Studies, taught by a faculty with professorial titles. The two do not co-exist easily but it was clear to me that my remit was to build IDSS's research reputation and that meant encouraging the faculty and researchers to publish their works in the best outlets we were capable of cracking. I remember celebrating the success of one of our assistant professors with a sumptuous cake when he succeeded in placing his article in a highly-ranked journal. The



Prof Khong Yuen Foong (left), then Director of IDSS, with Mr S R Nathan, 6th President of Singapore, and Dr Andrew Chew, then Chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors, at the 2nd Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers, August 2000

Over the years, RSIS has grown from strength to strength; today it has more faculty and researchers in international studies than all the other Singapore higher education institutions combined. Through a judicious organisation of this amazing range and depth of expertise, combined with a powerful narrative of its signature outputs and findings, and communicating these features strategically (to the relevant audiences), RSIS will be poised to rise to even greater heights than the formidable perch it is already on.

Professor Barry Desker

Distinguished Fellow, RSIS, and Nanyang Professor of Practice, NTU Singapore

He was Dean of RSIS from 1 October 2000 to 2 November 2014



The timing of the establishment of IDSS in 1996 was a stroke of genius. The 1990s was a decade of hubris for the United States as it was the sole superpower after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Yet there was a need for fresh thinking on defence and security issues in

Khong Yuen Foong is Li Ka Shing Professor of Political Science at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. He has served as IDSS Deputy Director and Associate Professor (1998-1999), Acting Director and Professor (1999-2000) and Director (2000). He returned to Oxford University in October 2000, but for the next fifteen years was a Senior Research Adviser to IDSS and RSIS.

Singapore amidst an uncertain regional environment. China was a rising power; Japan's mood was changing, and the European Union was flexing its muscles.

I was appointed as Director in October 2000, succeeding Mr S R Nathan who was elected President of Singapore in 1999. I served until November 2014 and would regard the development of the IDSS/RSIS institutional architecture as the most satisfying achievement during my tenure. We developed a unique blend of a graduate teaching programme and a policy-oriented think tank.



Prof Barry Desker, then Dean of RSIS, meeting the new MSc students, 23 July 2013

IDSS/RSIS' Strategic Positioning

The MSc in Strategic Studies had graduated its first two cohorts in 1999, and the annual course later known as the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) had just been inaugurated the same year. In 2002, we launched the MSc in International Relations, followed by the MSc in International Political Economy in 2004, and the MSc in Asian Studies in 2008. Our PhD programme began in 2003 and 28 PhD students have since graduated from our programme. The graduate programme rapidly emerged as the leading professionally-oriented programme in international affairs in the Asia Pacific.

With IDSS as the core, focusing on security trends in the Asia Pacific as well as the role of the major powers, we expanded our focus by establishing the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) and the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS). Our quick response in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks resulted in our emerging as a major centre for terrorism research in Asia, while our success in winning the largest grant in the MacArthur Foundation's competition on Asia Pacific security led to the building of strong foundations for the establishment of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) in 2008. With a major grant from the Temasek Foundation, the Centre for Trade and Negotiations was established in 2008, which later morphed into the Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS). IDSS won accolades as a leading defence and security think tank in global rankings.

Professor Joseph Liow

Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, and Tan Kah Kee Chair in Comparative and International Politics, NTU Singapore, and Research Adviser to RSIS.

He was Dean of RSIS from 3 November 2014 to 31 December 2018



I served as Dean of RSIS from November 2014 to December 2018. I joined IDSS, the precursor to RSIS, in December 1996 as a research assistant, hired by the founding director and former president of Singapore, Mr S R Nathan. By the time I relinquished the position,

These developments provided the under-pinning for our upgrade to an NTU graduate school of international affairs named after the first Foreign Minister of Singapore. The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) was inaugurated in 2007 and I served concurrently as the founding Dean. From the outset, RSIS was uniquely positioned as a professional graduate school of international affairs and a think tank focused on Asia Pacific security. The aim was to maximise the synergies arising from the co-location of think tank and academic personnel to create an institution oriented towards the analysis of major issues relevant to the local, regional, and international community.

Looking to the Future

We should take advantage of RSIS' positioning to increase our reach and coverage. RSIS graduate students should be encouraged to work on capstone projects which engage our Centres and Programmes. Our teaching programmes should incorporate scenario-planning exercises, role playing, and the writing of policy papers, while practitioners are brought into our teaching programmes to create a different dimension compared to other graduate programmes in Asia. At the same time, RSIS should look beyond its existing staff to draw in academics and professionals for short-term appointments to work on its contract research, providing a blend of innovative academic thinking and a clear policy focus.

I had spent virtually my entire professional career at RSIS. Over the course of those 22 years, I had the honour of being part of the amazing growth story of the School as it evolved from humble beginnings as a small, unknown think tank staffed by half a dozen people to the globally recognised school of international affairs that it is today.

If I were to be asked what the formula for the success of RSIS has been over the last two decades or so, I think it boils down to two things: leadership, and a culture and commitment to excellence. During my time at the School, I have had the privilege of learning

from some remarkable individuals. Mr Nathan set IDSS on its path and ensured that the foundations of a strong research culture was created. He did this by building links with prominent think tanks, academics, and policy analysts globally, while also investing in young scholars like myself. Prof Khong Yuen Foong, who briefly succeeded Mr Nathan, continued that tradition. It was under Prof Barry Desker that RSIS was established (on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of IDSS). With the unstinting support of Mr Nathan (then already president) and Mr Eddie Teo as chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors, Barry went about building RSIS into the brand that it is today. He did so by enhancing the quality of research and analysis, expanding the Master of Science programmes, and enhancing the international networks that he inherited from Mr Nathan and Yuen Foong. For me personally, the years spent at RSIS were also ones of growth and development as a scholar and gradually, as a leader as well. I learnt an immense amount from these four individuals not just about scholarship or decision-making, but also about how to lead by example.

As Dean, I had the pleasure of working with Amb Ong Keng Yong, who assumed the role of Executive Deputy Chairman. Keng Yong gave me the latitude to develop

the academic side of the School while welcoming my contributions to the important think tank work that continued to be done. When I assumed the office, I felt that after a period of growth, it was time for some consolidation, so that the School could "drill down" in order to develop core areas of genuine strength. To that end, I spent as much time as possible during my term as Dean to mentor and encourage my colleagues, particularly the junior colleagues, to focus on quality research and publication, and teaching excellence. Just as I learnt so much from those who came before me, I felt it was my responsibility and obligation to give back by devoting time and energy to those who would come after me. Indeed, the proudest parts of my time at RSIS, whether as research assistant or Dean, was to see my colleagues achieve the success that they did in their careers, be it a university press book contract, a teaching award, or tenure, because their success was the School's success. In that spirit, my one "suggestion" for the future of RSIS, drawing from my own experience in this wonderful institution, is quite simply: focus on your people. Be it faculty, researchers, administrators, or support staff, build them up, give them a sense of purpose and ownership, listen to them. Get this right, and the School will surely grow from strength to strength.



Prof Joseph Liow, then Dean of RSIS (centre), with Members of the RSIS Board of Governors, Prof Michael Brown, Professor of International Affairs and Political Science, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University (left); and Prof Bates Gill, Professor of Asia-Pacific Strategic Studies, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University, at the RSIS Dialogue with both Board Members on "US-Asia Relations: The Next Four Years and Beyond", 12 January 2017

IDSS At 25: Pondering the Improbable

IN 1995, Dr Tony Tan returned to the Cabinet and assumed the positions of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence. He assumed the posts at a time of apparent great strategic changes in the world. The Soviet Union had collapsed leading to the end of the Cold War. There were proclamations, particularly in Europe but elsewhere too, that a “peace dividend” would come about, and military organisations in North America and western Europe began the process of downsizing.

There were questions as to whether the United States would remain engaged and committed to the security and stability of the Asia Pacific region. At the same time, so-called small wars were breaking out in many parts of the world. Furthermore, the aforementioned downsizing of US and western European military organisations resulted in the global arms market being flooded with modern military technologies and weapons systems, due to over-supply and excess production capacity. For a small state like Singapore, it seemed the end of the Cold War did not bring with it a peace dividend; instead, it had ushered in a period of great uncertainty in the Asia Pacific region.

IDSS: How It All Started

It was in this context that Dr Tan concluded that the Ministry of Defence would benefit from having an additional source of geopolitical analysis that would help refine Singapore’s defence and foreign policies, as the country sought to navigate its way through the “political uncertainty in the Asia Pacific region arising from the post-Cold War era and the possible implications of this uncertainty on Singapore’s security and defence”.

Dr Tan subsequently established the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) in 1996 as a think tank that would conduct research on the geopolitical and geostrategic developments in the Asia Pacific, and ask the difficult – even inconvenient – questions

that could have a deleterious impact on Singapore’s national security.

Mr S R Nathan, then Singapore’s ambassador to the US, was tapped to be the founding director of IDSS. He was considered an ideal choice for this role, given his prior experiences in heading the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as his former leadership of MINDEF’s Security and Intelligence Division (SID).

After 25 years, IDSS is now a constituent part of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), a graduate school and think-tank. IDSS has planned a series of events to mark its 25th anniversary, leading with a series of three webinars, all involving eminent thinkers of strategy and security.

Thought Series on Strategic Studies

The first was a webinar by Professor Eliot Cohen, the Robert E. Osgood Professor of Strategic Studies and former dean of the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, held on 5 May 2021. It centred on the subject of “Shakespeare for Strategists”, a topic that connects the study of literature to the study of strategy and policy making.

A second webinar, planned for October this year, will feature Sir Lawrence Freedman, Emeritus Professor of War Studies in King’s College London, who will examine the challenges of strategy and command in an age of extreme uncertainty. In between both webinars, there will be a debate between Professor Heng Yee-Kuang from the Graduate School of Public Policy in the University of Tokyo and RSIS Professor Pascal Vennesson.

They will examine how the related subjects of Security Studies and Strategic Studies can illuminate and explain the strategic problems of the 21st Century facing states. All three events are united by a common theme – how the strategic problems of the 21st Century can be understood and addressed by concepts old and new.

In addition, IDSS will be launching a new commentary series, called IDSS Paper. This commentary series will reinforce the *raison d’être* of IDSS, that is producing geopolitical and geostrategic analysis that is academically and intellectually rigorous, while seeking to push the boundaries, ask inconvenient questions, and challenge received wisdoms.

The first IDSS Paper, written by RSIS Research Adviser, Dr See Seng Tan, will examine the ramifications of the failure of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to meet virtually with the ASEAN foreign ministers on 25 May 2021 – whether or not this apparent US faux pas reflects the decreasing salience of ASEAN in the US’ geopolitical calculus, or if this incident undermines the centrality of ASEAN to the geopolitical landscape.

The commemorative events and the IDSS Paper together reflect the traits that Mr Nathan had sought to inject into the DNA of IDSS, and of Mr S Rajaratnam, Singapore’s first foreign minister, whose name graces the graduate school.

Ethos and Spirit of IDSS

IDSS was intended to function both as a think tank as well as a graduate school – from its inception, in other words, IDSS was going to be something different. Mr Nathan, cognisant of the challenge of building this “hybrid” institute, therefore sought the advice of strategic thinkers who were not only at the top of the academic game, they also had considerable experience in the policy making world.

Two of them, Professor Cohen and Professor Freedman, were instrumental in helping Mr Nathan shape the ethos and spirit of IDSS.

Mr Nathan envisioned an IDSS that would have three functions. Its research output would form the intellectual basis for IDSS as a think tank that could provide alternative thinking into Singapore’s national security and foreign policy making. Its education function would, over time, grow a community of scholars and practitioners that would be underpinned by the rigorous academic education programmes IDSS would offer.

The third function of IDSS, given its emphasis on policy-relevant research, was to test new ideas and concepts in the “marketplace” of ideas, through networking with other strategic and security-focused research institutes and think tanks. Very early on in its existence, IDSS created a number of forums that served as platforms for strategic thinkers and policy makers to present their arguments about strategic issues facing the Asia Pacific.

The Strategic Challenges in the Asia Pacific Distinguished Lecture series featured policy makers such as the US secretary of defence as well as the

minister of defence of the People’s Republic of China. A Summer School for senior military officers – subsequently renamed as the Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) – was created.

This is a platform through which senior military officers from the Asia Pacific region and beyond could come together for an intensive week-long programme of talks and exchanges by leading academic thinkers and policy makers. IDSS also became the Singapore National Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), a network of security-focused think tanks and institutions that advises their respective government representatives in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

Going Forward

IDSS, like all think tanks, cannot and has not remained static. As new areas that can impinge on Singapore’s national security emerged, IDSS has had to adapt and enlarge, where necessary. With the emergence of a new terrorist threat to Singapore – bookmarked by the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, and further accentuated since then by other terrorist attacks in Bali, London and Paris, amongst others – the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) was formally inaugurated on 20 February 2004.

Subsequently, new research programmes were added – the Maritime Security Programme and the Military Transformations Programme. At the same time, older research programmes have continued to refine and adjust their respective areas of focus, in step with the ever-evolving strategic landscape that Singapore finds itself in.

In which direction will IDSS evolve in the future? Clearly, this is a rhetorical question, and impossible to answer. Nevertheless, it will have to remain true to its motto, and ensure that “Ponder the Improbable” continues to be a necessary foundation upon which Singapore can negotiate its path into the future.

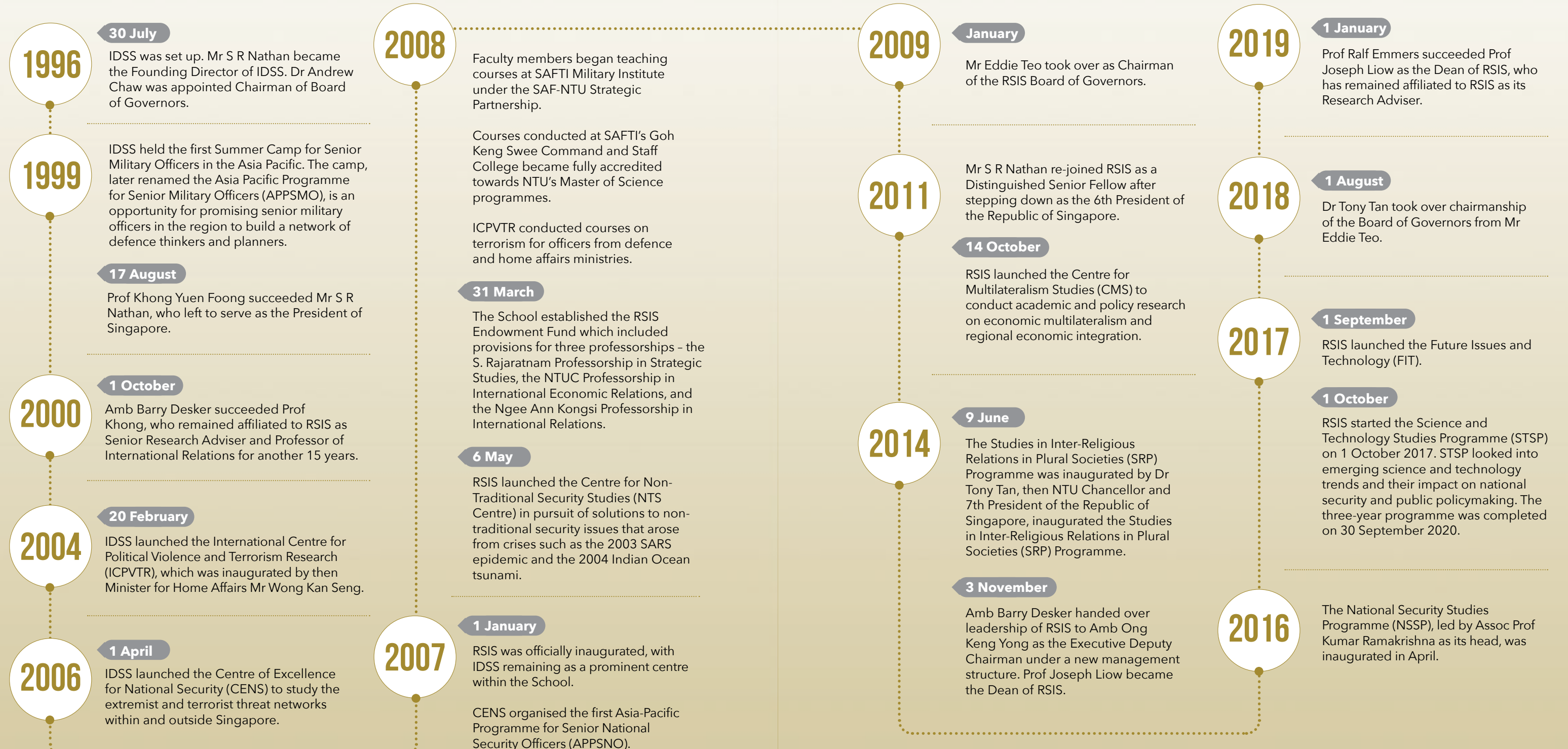
This piece was first published in RSIS Commentary on 4 August 2021

Dr Bernard Loo Fook Weng

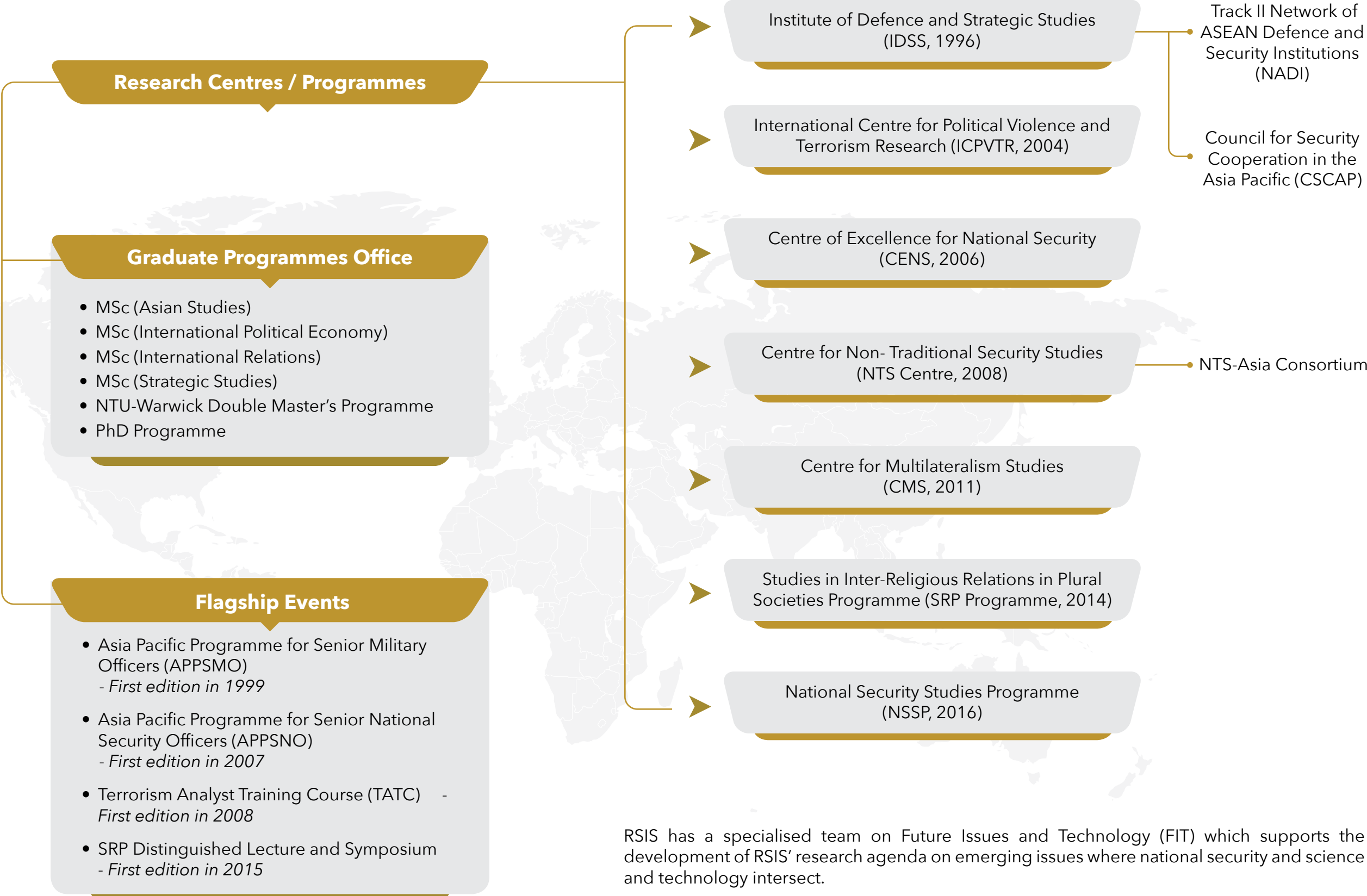
Senior Fellow, and
Coordinator of the MSc (Strategic Studies)
Programme, RSIS

Milestones

The end of the Cold War ushered a phase of strategic uncertainty. A think tank was needed to make sense of the strategic trends that would impact Singapore. Then Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan tasked the late Mr S R Nathan to set up a research institute and graduate school which could provide intellectual support to the Ministry of Defence by studying developments and devising ideas to improve Singapore's security and strategic capabilities.



Organisation of RSIS



RSIS has a specialised team on Future Issues and Technology (FIT) which supports the development of RSIS' research agenda on emerging issues where national security and science and technology intersect.

Research Centres and Programmes

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

The Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman in RSIS houses the Policy Studies group. This team helps Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, to identify and incubate new policy-relevant research programmes.

The Future Issues and Technology (FIT) cluster was launched on 1 September 2017. It supports the development of RSIS' research agenda on emerging issues where national security and science and technology intersect. In the past year, FIT worked with various RSIS programmes and stakeholders on implications of techno-nationalism, and rapid growth of artificial intelligence systems.

RSIS comprises five Research Centres and two Research Programmes.

Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)

IDSS comprises nine research programmes, namely: China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maritime Security, Military Studies, Military Transformations, Regional Security Architecture, South Asia, and the United States. For greater synergy, with effect from April 2020, China and the United States are grouped as the Major Powers, Indonesia and Malaysia are clustered as Malaysia-Indonesia, and Emerging Security consists of Military Transformations along with the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre). The Military Studies Programme focuses on professional military education for the Singapore Armed Forces.

International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR)

ICPVTR is a specialist, policy-oriented centre within RSIS, which conducts research, training, and outreach programmes aimed at reducing the threat of politically motivated violence and mitigating its effects on the international system. The Centre integrates academic theory with practical knowledge, which is essential for a complete and comprehensive understanding of threats from politically-motivated groups. ICPVTR is culturally and linguistically diverse, comprising functional and regional analysts. It is staffed by researchers, academic specialists, religious scholars, and language experts.

Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)

CENS is a research unit of RSIS at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Established on 1 April 2006, CENS raison d'être is to raise the intellectual capital invested in strategising national security. To do so, CENS is devoted to rigorous policy-relevant analysis across a range of national security issues. CENS is multinational in composition, comprising both Singaporeans and foreign analysts who are specialists in various aspects of national and homeland security affairs.

Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre)

NTS Centre conducts research and produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building the capacity to address non-traditional security (NTS) issues and challenges in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. The Centre addresses knowledge gaps, facilitates discussions and analyses, engages policymakers, and contributes to building institutional capacity in areas which include: Climate Security, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Food Security, and Nuclear Safety and Security. The NTS Centre brings together myriad NTS stakeholders in regular workshops and roundtable discussions, as well as provides a networking platform for NTS research institutions in the Asia Pacific through the NTS-Asia Consortium.

Assistant Professor Ong Wei Chong
Head of NSSP and Deputy Coordinator
of MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme

Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony
President's Chair in International Relations and
Security Studies and Head of NTS Studies

Associate Professor Alan Chong
Head of CMS

Ambassador
Alami Musa
Head of SRP
Programme



Dr Shashi Jayakumar
Head of CENS and
Executive Coordinator of FIT

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong
Executive Deputy Chairman and
Director of IDSS

Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna
Provost's Chair in National Security Studies,
Associate Dean in charge of Policy Studies,
Head of ICPVTR, and Research Adviser to NSSP

Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS)

CMS is a research entity within RSIS at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. The CMS team conducts cutting-edge research, teaching/training, and networking on cooperative multilateralism in the Asia Pacific region. The Centre aims to contribute to international academic and public discourses on regional architecture and order in Asia Pacific. It aspires to be an international knowledge hub for multilateral and regional cooperation. The Centre's research agenda includes international and global forms, as well as expressions of cooperative multilateralism on i) Economic Multilateralism, ii) Diplomatic and Security Multilateralism, iii) International Political Economy and iv) Temasek Foundation Series on Trade & Negotiations.

For details on the cooperative multilateralism, please see the CMS webpage at www.rsis.edu.sg/research/cms/

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

SRP aims to study various models of how religious communities develop their teachings to meet the contemporary challenges of living in plural societies. It will also deepen the study of inter-religious relations, formulate models for the positive role of religions in peace-building and produce knowledge to strengthen social ties between communities. The Programme seeks to be at the forefront in the development of scholarship and applied knowledge on the roles of religion and inter-religious relations in plural societies today.

National Security Studies Programme (NSSP)

NSSP was launched in April 2016 with a primary aim to conduct research into key episodes in Singapore's national security history and draw out contemporary implications for today. Its research seeks to address a range of national security challenges facing small, globalised, multi-ethnic city-states and generate intellectual capital pertinent for security practitioners. Apart from producing research and teaching on the master's programme in RSIS, NSSP researchers also share their insights with public officers in various seminars or training courses.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors sets academic and policy research objectives for the School. In addition to providing strategic directions for RSIS, the Board also institutes new programmes, reviews ongoing activities, and approves plans and budgets. The Board consists of Singaporean and international members.



Dr Tony Tan

Chairman
Special Adviser, GIC, and
Honorary Patron and
Distinguished Senior Fellow,
Singapore Management University



Ambassador Ong Keng Yong

Deputy Chairman
Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS,
Director, IDSS



Mr Peter Ho

Senior Advisor,
Centre for Strategic Futures,
Prime Minister's Office



Professor Lam Khin Yong

Senior Vice President (Research),
President's Chair in Mechanical and
Aerospace Engineering,
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Members



Professor Michael E. Brown

Professor of International
Affairs and Political Science,
Elliott School of International Affairs,
The George Washington University



Mr Chan Heng Kee

Permanent Secretary (Defence),
Ministry of Defence



Mr Chee Wee Kiong

Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Mr Pang Kin Keong

Permanent Secretary
(Home Affairs),
Ministry of Home Affairs



Professor Sir Steve Smith

UK Government International Education
Champion, and Prime Minister's Special
Representative to Saudi Arabia for
Education, Department for Education and
Department for International Trade



Mr Peter Varghese AO

Chancellor,
The University of Queensland



Ms Chew Gek Khim

Executive Chairman,
The Straits Trading Company Limited



Dr Bates Gill

Professor of Asia-Pacific
Security Studies,
Macquarie University



Mr Leo Yip

Head of the Civil Service,
Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (Strategy),
Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, and
Permanent Secretary, National Security
and Intelligence Coordination



Professor Ralf Emmers

Ex-officio Member
Dean, RSIS, and
President's Chair in International Relations,
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

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January 2019 - December 2020

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Special Adviser, GIC, and
Honorary Patron and Distinguished Senior Fellow,
Singapore Management University

Deputy Chairman

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Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS; and Director, IDSS

Members

1. **Professor Michael Brown**
Professor of International Affairs and Political Science, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University
2. **Mr Chan Heng Kee** (from 2 December 2019)
Permanent Secretary (Defence), Ministry of Defence
3. **Mr Chan Yeng Kit** (until 2 December 2019)
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence
4. **Mr Chee Wee Kiong**
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
5. **Ms Chew Gek Khim**
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Professor of Asia-Pacific Security Studies, Macquarie University
8. **Mr Peter Ho**
Senior Advisor, Centre for Strategic Futures, Prime Minister's Office
9. **Professor Vali Nasr**
Majid Khadduri Professor of Middle East and International Affairs, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University
10. **Mr Pang Kin Keong**
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
11. **Professor Sir Steve Smith**
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Exeter
12. **Mr Peter Varghese**
Chancellor, The University of Queensland
13. **Mr Leo Yip**
Head of the Civil Service, Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (Strategy), Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, and Permanent Secretary, National Security and Intelligence Coordination

Ex-Officio Member

Professor Ralf Emmers
Dean, RSIS; and President's Chair in International Relations, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

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- **Dr Tony Tan** (from 1 August 2018)
Special Adviser, GIC, and
Honorary Patron and Distinguished Senior Fellow,
Singapore Management University
- **Mr Eddie Teo** (until 31 July 2018)
Chairman, Public Service Commission

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Ambassador Ong Keng Yong
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Ex-Officio Member

Professor Joseph Liow
Dean, RSIS



Incoming RSIS Board of Governors Chairman, Dr Tony Tan (right), thanking outgoing Chairman Mr Eddie Teo, 2 August 2018

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2. Ambassador Chan Heng Chee
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3. Mr Chan Yeng Kit
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence
4. Mr Chee Wee Kiong
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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9. Mr Benny Lim
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10. Mr Loh Ngai Seng (from 1 January 2016)
Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs
11. Professor Sir Steve Smith
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Exeter
12. Professor Stephen Walt
Robert and Renee Belfer Professor International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School of Government
13. Mr Leo Yip
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Permanent Secretary (Prime Minister's Office and National Security and Intelligence Coordination)

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4. Ms Chew Gek Khim
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Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence
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Professor of Asia-Pacific Security Studies, Macquarie University
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13. Professor Stephen Walt
Robert and Renee Belfer Professor International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School of Government
14. Professor Wang Gungwu
Director, East Asian Institute

Ex-Officio Member

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- Ambassador Barry Desker (until 3 November 2014)
Dean, RSIS

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3. **Mr Patrick Daniel**
Managing Editor, English and Malay Newspapers Division, Singapore Press Holdings
4. **Professor Er Meng Hwa** (from 1 August 2006)
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7. **Mr K Kesavapany**
Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
8. **Professor Neo Boon Siong** (until 31 July 2006)
Director, Information Management Research Centre, Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
9. **Mr Peter Seah**
Chairman, Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd
10. **Brigadier-General (Ret.) Tan Chin Tiong** (until 15 July 2004)
First Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
11. **Associate Professor Tan Tai Yong**
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore
12. **Professor Wang Gungwu**
Director, East Asian Institute

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- Professor Francois Heisbourg**
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- Mr Koh Yong Guan** (until 30 Jun 2003)
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Robert E. Osgood Professor of Strategic Studies, The Paul J. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, The Johns Hopkins University
- Professor Francois Heisbourg** (from 1 January 2002)
Chairman, International Institute for Strategic Studies Council
- Mr Ho Kwon Ping**
President, Wah-Chang International Corporation (S) Pte Ltd
- Mr Peter Ho**
Senior Advisor, Centre for Strategic Futures, Prime Minister's Office
- Mr Koh Yong Guan**
Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore
- Professor Michael Leifer** (until time of passing in 2001)
Director, Asia Research Centre, The London School of Economics and Political Science
- Professor Neo Boon Siong** (from 1 Jan 2002)
Director, Information management Research Centre, Nanyang Business School, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Mr Peter Seah**
Chairman, Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd
- Brigadier-General (Ret.) Tan Chin Tiong**
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July 1998 - June 2000

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Chairman, Public Service Commission

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- Dr Cheong Choong Kong**
Deputy Chairman, Singapore Airlines Ltd
- Professor Chia Siow Yue**
Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
- Mr Ho Kwon Ping**
President, Wah-Chang International Corporation (S) Pte Ltd
- Mr Koh Yong Guan**
Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore
- Kishore Mahbubani** (until 31 July 1998)
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Brigadier-General (Ret.) Tan Chin Tiong** (from 1 Aug 1998)
First Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Eddie Teo**
Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Ministry of Defence
- Mr Peter Seah**
Chairman, Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd
- Professor Wang Gungwu**
Director, East Asian Institute
- Mr Wee Ee Cheong**
Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

July 1996 - June 1998

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Chairman, Public Service Commission

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- Professor Chen Charng-Ning** (from 26 July 1996)
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Deputy Chairman, Singapore Airlines Ltd
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President, Wah-Chang International Corporation (S) Pte Ltd
- Mr Koh Yong Guan** (from 26 July 1996)
Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore
- Mr Kishore Mahbubani** (from 26 July 1996)
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Peter Seah** (from 26 July 1996)
Chairman, Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd
- Mr Eddie Teo**
Permanent Secretary (Defence), Ministry of Defence
- Professor Wang Gungwu** (from 19 February 1998)
Director, East Asian Institute
- Mr Wee Ee Cheong** (from 26 July 1996)
Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies



Dr Andrew Chew, first Chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors (right) with Mr S R Nathan, 6th President of Singapore and Founding Director of IDSS, 11 December 2006

Honours and Awards

Exemplary Figures Conferred NTU Honorary Degrees

On 17 September 2021, Mr Eddie Teo, former chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors, and Ms Chew Gek Khim, member of the Board, were conferred the honorary doctorate degree by NTU. The honorary degrees were presented by President Halimah Yacob.

Mr Teo, who is Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers (CPA), was honoured for his decades of leadership and contributions to RSIS and NTU, to the Public Service, and to Singapore. As former chairman of RSIS Board from 2009 to 2018, Mr Teo has been instrumental in providing strategic direction and leadership for RSIS, steering it to become one of the top think tanks in Asia and a globally recognised school of international affairs.

Ms Chew, Deputy Chairman of the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, has shown passionate support towards education and social causes. Under Ms Chew's leadership, the foundation has generously contributed to NTU since 1997, helping to establish various professorships, scholarships, fellowships, and bursaries.



Mr Eddie Teo (L) and Ms Chew Gek Khim (R) receiving the honorary degree from President Halimah Yacob, 17 September 2021

Nanyang Alumni Awards

Dr Muhammad Tito Karnavian, PhD (Strategic Studies), Class of 2013, received the Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award for his contributions to counter-terrorism and law and order during the Nanyang Alumni Awards on 23 October 2021.

Dr Muhammad Tito, who is the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, has devoted much of his career to combating the spectre of terrorism. He previously served as Jakarta police chief, for which he won praise for maintaining security following attacks by Islamic State sympathisers in 2018. He also served as head of Indonesia's elite Densus 88 counter-terrorism squad, where he assisted in the successful hunts for Noordin Mohammad Top, then Indonesia's most-wanted fugitive, and Azahari Husin, the man believed to be the mastermind behind the 2002 Bali bombings.



Dr Muhammad Tito Karnavian (centre) with Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education (left), and Prof Ling San, Deputy President and Provost, NTU (right), at the Nanyang Alumni Awards ceremony, 23 October 2021

Named Faculty Chair Professorships at NTU¹

Three RSIS professors have been appointed to named faculty chair professorships by NTU. They are:



Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony
President's Chair in International Relations and Security Studies



Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna
Provost's Chair in National Security Studies



Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang
Provost's Chair in International Relations

Nanyang Professor of Practice

Mr Barry Desker, Distinguished Fellow in RSIS, was concurrently appointed as Nanyang Professor of Practice in NTU from 1 October 2021. As Nanyang Professor of Practice, he may be invited to mentor NTU students, staff or faculty; to present in both formal/informal lectures; to participate in panel discussions; and to offer suggestions and advice on academic, administrative and corporate matters so that the University can benefit from his vast experience as an accomplished senior diplomat and former Dean of RSIS.



Prof Barry Desker

External Appointments

At the invitation of Coventry University, Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna joined the University as Visiting Professor for a period of three years from December 2020. During the appointment, Assoc Prof Ramakrishna will act as an academic advisor to PhD students, as well as explore research collaborations between RSIS and Coventry University.

At the invitation of the Perth USAsia Centre in Australia, Asst Prof Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, Deputy Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies, joined the Centre as a non-resident Indo-Pacific Fellow from January to November 2021. The Centre focuses on geopolitical and geo-economic issues and policy development.



Assoc Prof Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit



Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna



Asst Prof Hoo Tiang Boon



Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang

Awards for Teaching Excellence

Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang, Coordinator of PhD Programme, and Asst Prof Hoo Tiang Boon, Coordinator of the China Programme, received the RSIS Teaching Awards for Academic Year 2020/2021 and 2019/2020 respectively. The award recognises teaching excellence and outstanding contributions to the enhancement of learning at RSIS. Dean Emmers presented the awards at the RSIS Virtual Graduation Ceremony on 10 July 2021.

¹Named Faculty Chair Professorships recognise the achievements of early-career, mid-career and senior faculty colleagues

Scholarships



Asst Prof Benjamin Ho

Dr Benjamin Ho, Assistant Professor from the China Programme, has received a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue research at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. Dr Ho will be in the University from February to May 2022 in US.



Ms Wendy He

Ms Wendy He, Senior Analyst at MSP, has received the NTU Research Scholarship. The scholarship is for full-time studies and tenable at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Research Grants



Asst Prof Evan Resnick

Interests, Ideology and Great Power Spheres of Influence

Asst Prof Evan Resnick, Coordinator of MSc (International Relations) Programme at RSIS, has received the Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1 grant of \$37,000. The three-year grant will be directed towards the completion of a book manuscript that looks into an area not well-studied in International Relations, i.e., the phenomenon of great power spheres of influence.

Countering Health-Related Misinformation

Dr Gulizar Hacıyakupoglu, Research Fellow at CENS, has received a partial funding of US\$8,300 from the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) Faculty Fund. Collaborating with Asst Prof D.J. Flynn and Asst Prof Nina Wiesehomeier of IE University in Spain, the joint research project examines best measures to counter misinformation, including health-related misinformation, in the United States and India. The study, which will be completed in 2021, seeks to aid the efforts of policymakers in combating misinformation.



Dr Gulizar Hacıyakupoglu



(L-R) Ms Margareth Sembiring, Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Dr Lina Gong, Mr Julius Trajano

Marine Ecology in Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific

The NTS Centre also received a research grant of A\$17,500 from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australia. The project is set to undertake baseline studies of international cooperation arrangements in the area of marine ecology in the Indo-Pacific, and to chart out proposals for potential regional collaboration arrangements in marine ecology for the Indian Ocean Region that can be supported by Australia and India. The project is in collaboration with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, the Chesterfield Lane Pte Ltd, Australia, and the Observer Research Foundation in India.



(L-R) Dr Lina Gong, Ms S. Nanthini, Mr Christopher Chen, Dr Alistair Cook

ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook

The NTS Centre's HADR Programme was awarded a US\$30,000 grant from the ASEAN Secretariat to develop the "ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook (2021) – ASEAN's Journey for a Disaster Resilience Region". The ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook is a mid-term review of the ASEAN Vision 2025 on disaster management and is scheduled to be launched at the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in late 2021.

Research and Networking Events

During the year, RSIS staff continued to delve into their respective areas of expertise, and shared their findings and analyses through various publications and online platforms. RSIS scholars also published peer-reviewed books on their areas of research and op-eds in other publications, and participated in forums and discussions with other think tanks and institutes.

IDSS commemorated its 25th anniversary with the publishing of a new commentary series - the IDSS Paper. The commentary series reinforces the raison d'être of IDSS, that is producing geopolitical and geostrategic analysis that is academically and intellectually rigorous, while seeking to push the boundaries, ask inconvenient questions, and challenge received wisdoms. The first IDSS Paper on "America, ASEAN and the Question of ASEAN's Centrality" was published in August.

Despite the continued impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic, with safe distancing and other related measures in place, the 22nd edition of the flagship Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) and the 13th run of the Terrorism Analyst Training Course were held in 2021, the former virtually and the latter in hybrid mode.

Two flagship programmes - the 14th edition of the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO) and the 6th SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium - continued to be deferred.

RSIS continues to serve key roles in security dialogues and exchanges within the region, acting as Secretariat for both the Singapore National Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP Singapore) and the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI), as well as for the Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Asia Consortium. Through these roles, RSIS contributes actively to discussions on regional security, supports the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) with relevant inputs and timely ahead-of-the-curve policy recommendations, and helps to build the confidence of ASEAN think tanks and research institutions.

COUNCIL FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC (CSCAP)

CSCAP's activities in 2021 have continued to take place online due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The 54th CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting was held virtually on 30 June 2021 and EDC Ong Keng Yong (representing CSCAP Singapore) completed his two-year term as CSCAP Co-Chair on that day. CSCAP Indonesia took over CSCAP Singapore's role as CSCAP Co-Chair and will helm this position till the middle of 2023.

A new CSCAP Study Group on Women, Peace, and Security also commenced with its first meeting held virtually on 10 and 11 June 2021. In addition, CSCAP Singapore continued to convene the Nuclear Energy Experts Group meeting with US CSCAP.

TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (NADI)

RSIS serves as the Secretariat for the Track II NADI. NADI is a forum comprising defence and security institutions from the 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS), which supports the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) with relevant and timely ahead-of-the-curve policy recommendations. NADI is also a forum that builds confidence and familiarity among the ASEAN think tanks and research institutions. As the Secretariat for NADI, RSIS hosts the NADI website, which carries reports of the NADI meetings, workshops, and retreats. Over the last 15 years, NADI has contributed ideas and policy recommendations to the ADMM.

country's perspectives on the regional security outlook and the ADMM. Many saw the COVID-19 pandemic as a major economic and security threat that AMS must address. Other non-traditional security threats such as climate change, cybersecurity, and threats arising from technological advancements, including Artificial Intelligence, were also highlighted. Other delegates underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN centrality in the regional security architecture, especially in the context of heightening great power rivalry. The delegates provided recommendations, for the consideration of the ADMM, to enhance ASEAN centrality and strengthen future ADMM cooperation.

In 2021, after a year-long hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, NADI held six virtual meetings and workshops. The 14th NADI Annual Meeting was held from 30 March to 1 April 2021, organised by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkuah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (SHHBIDSS), Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam. This was the first NADI event held on a virtual platform. During the 14th Annual Meeting, there was general agreement among the delegates that ASEAN centrality must be maintained amid shifting geopolitical dynamics and emerging security threats. NADI delegates shared their respective

The NADI Workshop on "Strengthening Defence Cooperation in ASEAN Health Security", organised by the Strategic Studies Center (SSC), National Defence Studies Institute, Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters, Thailand, was held from 17 to 19 August 2021. The delegates shared their respective country's experiences in dealing with COVID-19, as well as perspectives on how AMS can prepare for future pandemics and other health emergencies. Delegates agreed that within AMS, strong multi-sectoral responses were needed. Delegates also agreed that we would all benefit from more cross-border, regional, and international cooperation in dealing with the pandemic. Some delegates highlighted that the military should play a supporting role to the civilian health sector in pandemic responses. Other delegates highlighted the role of the ASEAN Center for Military Medicine (ACMM), including how it can enhance its role in coordinating responses to the pandemics. The delegates provided recommendations, for the consideration of the ADMM, to strengthen ASEAN cooperation on tackling COVID-19 and future pandemics.



The NADI Workshop on "Strengthening Defence Cooperation in ASEAN Health Security"

NADI institutions organised a further four workshops over the course of the year.

CONSORTIUM OF NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES



Speakers of the 5th NTS-Asia Consortium Annual Conference, 13-15 April 2021

RSIS is also the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia. A network of 31 institutions and think tanks across Asia, NTS-Asia is a platform for academic and policy exchange on developments on NTS issues and research across the Asian region. The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) staffs the secretariat.

The NTS Centre brought together senior officials and prominent scholars across Asia to discuss the theme “Asian Security in a Post-COVID-19 Environment” at the fifth annual meeting of the NTS-Asia Consortium in April. The meeting covered the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups and on existing inequality, cybersecurity, and transnational crime, as well as the importance of governing cyberspace. The meeting also discussed the need to continue the sustainability agenda.

VISIT OF NTU BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR



Ms Goh Swee Chen (centre) is accompanied by Amb Ong Keng Yong (left) and Dean Ralf Emmers during her visit.

Ms Goh Swee Chen, Chair of the NTU Board of Trustees, visited RSIS on 23 July 2021 and met with the senior management. Welcomed by Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, and Prof Ralf Emmers, Dean of RSIS, they discussed the roles of RSIS as a think tank and graduate school, educational and research networking and their intertwined nature.

RSIS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURES

RSIS visiting scholars and other eminent speakers gave Distinguished Public Lectures online during the year. Among them were Dr Parag Khanna who gave the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture; and Mr Stephen Roach and Prof Rana Mitter who gave the Ngee Ann

Kongsi Distinguished Public Lectures. They spoke on a range of topics covering US-China relations, how China’s past is shaping its future in nationalism, and climate change and mass migration.

IDSS 25TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURES

The year 2021 marked the 25th anniversary of IDSS, later inaugurated as RSIS. In commemoration of this milestone, RSIS organised a lecture series featuring the world’s leading strategists.

The anniversary lectures started in May with “Shakespeare for Strategists” by Professor Eliot

Cohen, Robert E. Osgood Professor, and Dean, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. Professor Cohen is a long-time friend of IDSS, part of the global network of friends that IDSS built with research institutions and strategic thinkers.



Dr Tony Tan, Chairman, RSIS BOG (rightmost), and Professor Subra Suresh, President of NTU Singapore (left), planted two ficus bonsai trees to commemorate the 25th anniversary. With them were Mr Chan Heng Kee, PS/Defence (leftmost) and Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS (second from right).



The anniversary series continued in August with the IDSS Debate on “Security Studies versus Strategic Studies: Relevance in the 21st Century” featuring Professor Heng Yee Kuang, Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo, and Professor Pascal Vennesson, Senior Fellow, IDSS, RSIS.

In October, a Commemorative APPSMO-IDSS Lecture was held as part of the flagship APPSMO. Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Emeritus Professor of War

Studies, King’s College, London, spoke on “Strategy and Command in an Age of Uncertainty”.

The anniversary commemoration concluded in November with the launch of an IDSS book titled “Strategy and Defence Policy for Small States: Problems and Prospects”, and the planting of two ficus bonsai trees by Dr Tony Tan, Chairman, RSIS BOG, and Professor Subra Suresh, President of NTU Singapore.

ASIA PACIFIC PROGRAMME FOR SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS



First edition of APPSMO, 1999

The 22nd Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO 2021), held from 5 to 7 October 2021, discussed the theme “The Evolving Security Environment in the Asia-Pacific and its Challenges”. Sixty senior military officers from more than thirty armed forces participated in APPSMO, held virtually due to COVID-19 measures. As part of IDSS’ 25th anniversary celebrations, Sir Lawrence Freedman, Emeritus Professor of War Studies at King’s College London, gave the Distinguished Lecture on “Strategy and Command in an Age of Extreme Uncertainty”.

THE GREAT POWERS

World attention on the geopolitics around the great powers continued unabated during the year. RSIS activated its networks and worked with partners to discuss pertinent issues through various webinars and workshops during the year.

During the year, the US and China Programmes of IDSS

organised webinars examining great power relations. Among them was a January workshop on “Great Powers Exceptionalism: Sino-American Conceptions of World Order”. The conclusion was the likelihood of a constantly changing global order around US-China relations, with a more assertive China and a more transactional America. A March webinar on “US-China

Relations: A Decoupling World?”, an often-discussed subject, saw differing views on whether it would, or was already, happening.

IDSS also co-organised in April a virtual roundtable discussion with China’s Center for China and Globalization (CCG) and the US-based Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS). Titled “The Next Bound in US-China Relations”, the discussion drew together distinguished scholars from universities and think tanks in the three countries.

“Great Power Rivalry and Maritime Order in Southeast Asia” was another subject discussed at a webinar jointly organised by RSIS, Japan’s National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), and Indonesia’s Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in March. Participants noted the importance for Southeast Asia the 2016 ruling on the South China Sea by the Arbitral Tribunal as well as the different interests of regional

countries regarding maritime security. It was noted that studying the changes in regional countries was no less important than studying the attitudes of the great powers towards Southeast Asia, which have not changed significantly.

America’s alliances were examined in a webinar on “Trump, Biden, and the Fate of America’s Alliances” on 3 September 2021, a timely discussion in the light of America’s withdrawal of armed forces from Afghanistan.

Great power competition was also examined in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a webinar hosted by CMS in February, speakers from Western and Chinese institutions deliberated on the impact of COVID-19 on the already complex great power dynamics in the region, from the risks of antagonism to the opportunities for cooperation.

MARITIME SECURITY



7th International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC)

The annual flagship conference “Regional Maritime Security Outlook 2021” in January was held via a hybrid format with local participation in-person and overseas participation done virtually. Organised by the Maritime Security Programme of IDSS, the conference covered trends in regional security environment and the future of conflict and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, with discussions on the intensified contest over the shared maritime space in the South China Sea and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on regional maritime security. The conference also covered unilateral maritime security cooperation in Southeast Asia and the “grey zone” competition in East Asia’s maritime domain.

The 7th International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC), held on 28 July 2021, featured panel discussions on promoting safe and secure seas in the new normal impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MULTILATERALISM AND SECURITY

The RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop returned this year in a virtual format. CMS/RSIS and the World Trade Organization (WTO), with support from the Temasek Foundation, co-organised the 11th RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop that was held in May. The three-day virtual workshop, attended by WTO Director-General Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and parliamentarians

across the Asia Pacific, discussed challenges facing WTO and trade multilateralism, and the way forward considering longstanding frustrations with economic globalisation and international institutions in general.

The effects of the global pandemic on international economic cooperation and diplomacy were also



(Clockwise from top-left): Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive of Temasek Foundation International and Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the WTO, touched upon COVID-19, the WTO and Singapore’s role in economic multilateralism during their opening remarks, 17 May 2021.

discussed at a webinar series themed “Post-Pandemic Multilateralism and Diplomacy” organised by CMS in February.

A webinar on “International Law and Rule of Law Approach in the Indo-Pacific Region” in September, focused on the rule of law at sea in the Indo-Pacific

THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC YEARS

Into the second year of COVID-19, attention continues to be focused on its impact and how it will shape the years ahead. The future of diplomacy was a subject covered in a webinar organised by CMS in March, which looked at the challenges from diplomacy going virtual, and how the pandemic has turned vaccines into the new soft power tool.

On the anniversary of the pandemic, NTS hosted a roundtable to share “Reflections One Year On”. It covered the challenges for the Asia-Pacific and the wider global community, including pandemic fatigue, rising economic and social cost, vaccine nationalism and diplomacy, and the level of regional cooperation between ASEAN and its external partners.

In “Surveillance and Privacy during COVID-19 and the Next Normal” organised by CENS in April, speakers discussed how surveillance and privacy issues would affect data-driven governance in the “next normal” and the next pandemic, noting that governments would need diverse perspectives to achieve the best balance between surveillance and privacy.

region and how when the rule of law is threatened, undermines political stability, endangers the use of international waters which support commerce, and interferes with legitimate governance activities of coastal states. Expert panellists discussed these from the perspectives of international law, domestic legislation, and the balance of power. They also looked at contributions to rule of law made by various countries.

The Regional Security Architecture Programme (RSAP) of IDSS held a virtual roundtable in October on the increasing strategic interest of larger European countries as well as the European Union in the Indo-Pacific. Distinguished experts in this field discussed the respective national strategic objectives, means, and limitations of the three largest European states, France, Germany, and Great Britain, for the Indo-Pacific region. The roundtable also featured a Chinese and a local ASEAN perspective, and discussed how the European interests and engagement would be received in the region.

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM



ICPVTR/RSIS continues to study the terrorist threat and the challenges of counter-terrorism. ICPVTR webinars featured experts discussing the evolving terrorism threat in Southeast Asia, Germany's fight against terrorism and problems with the extreme right, what the Taliban win in Afghanistan meant for terrorism worldwide and in the region, and other related issues.

In order to understand how the terrorism threat may unfold in the foreseeable future, ICPVTR held a series of webinars during the year to explore different

TERRORISM ANALYST TRAINING COURSE

ICPVTR held the 13th Terrorism Analyst Training Course (TATC) via online and in-person presentations to 32 Singapore-based participants from law enforcement/security agencies and the private and community sectors. TATC is a capacity-building programme aimed at providing the latest analyses on terrorism and radicalism trends by academics and senior practitioners. TATC is also a networking platform for counter-terrorism researchers, analysts, and law enforcement officials.

Held from 12 to 16 July 2021, speakers from Australia, Europe, Singapore, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the

CYBERSECURITY AND AI

RSIS and Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) co-hosted the third edition of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Conference in March. Held virtually, the conference brought together AI experts and decision-makers from all around the world to jointly address the theme of "Building Inclusive and Trustworthy AI Governance". Mr Teo Eng Dih, Deputy Secretary (Policy), MINDEF,

aspects of the evolving threat picture in Southeast Asia. The series examined the dynamics of the region's terrorism landscape, with in-depth discussions on the complexities and challenges in managing the return of foreign terrorist fighters, terrorism financing, latest developments in conflict areas which attract jihadists like Marawi, and the best practices and obstacles in countering online radicalisation.

Experts from the United Kingdom also shared their experience and insights at a webinar organised by ICPVTR and NSSP, specifically on UK experience of learning lessons from Countering Terrorism. "Two Decades from 9/11: Rethinking US Efforts on Counter-terrorism" held in April, focused on the need for strategic counter-terrorism, tackling the problem upstream.

Religious extremism was the subject of a roundtable between ICPVTR and the Imam Maturidi International Scientific Research Center of Uzbekistan in May. Both centres shared knowledge and best practices on combating religious extremism.

United Kingdom, and the United States, presented insights into country-specific developments in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Speakers also spoke on emerging strains of radicalism such as the far-right phenomenon.

During TATC 2021, ICPVTR launched its Southeast Asia Militant Atlas, a geospatial mapping of militancy in the region, believed to be the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. The Atlas is available at <https://www.rsis.edu.sg/research/icpvtr/southeast-asia-militant-atlas/#.YTh8zJ0za14>

gave the opening address at the conference, where he spoke on Singapore's commitment to the responsible development and use of AI in the military realm, and its consistency with the Law of Armed Conflict. The conference facilitated multilateral conversations across professional boundaries in order to address the complex and inter-disciplinary issue of AI governance.

CLIMATE CHANGE

"Climate Change and Communities - a Human Security Perspective" was the subject of a webinar held on 28 July 2021. Organised by NTS Centre, it brought together experts from the region and discussed

NUCLEAR GOVERNANCE

Nuclear governance in the Asia Pacific and civilian nuclear cooperation among states are crucial to the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology. Presentations at the NTS Centre-organised webinar on 29 July included national actions,

RACE AND RELIGION

RSIS co-hosted with the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) a forum on Race and Racism in Singapore. The forum was held in June after a number of highly publicised incidents. The forum featured a keynote speech by Minister Lawrence Wong, with a question-and-answer session moderated by CENS/RSIS, followed by a roundtable discussion involving scholars and practitioners. Both think tanks co-hosted another forum in November on identity.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

RSIS held a number of webinars to shed light on regional developments. Among the webinars held were "DAP and Malaysian Politics Post-Sheraton Move" in May that discussed the strategic outlook of the Democratic Action Party (DAP) and Pakatan

HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMES



SPDMM

Humanitarian futures was the subject of a workshop jointly organised in March by HADR, NTS Centre, with the Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme Coordination Centre

climate change through the human security lens, exploring the question of how framing climate change in such a way might ensure the security and stability of communities in a new climate future.

bilateral cooperation, ASEAN-led frameworks, and bottom-up approaches involving non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, and Track II networks.

"Regional Trends in Interreligious Relations" was the focus of a webinar by SRP in August. The findings of a year-long study of diverse reports on the state of interreligious relations and religious affairs in Asian societies, were presented.

Harapan (PH) amid the ongoing political realignment and socio-economic challenges facing Malaysia, exacerbated by COVID-19. A webinar on 31 August 2021 focused on "Malaysia's Policy Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic".

(Changi RHCC), with support from the Humanitarian Futures team based in Geneva, London and San Francisco. The latter team developed the idea of humanitarian futures and a related toolkit, an increasingly important area as disasters and crises are predicted to grow significantly in magnitude and frequency in the next decade, aggravated by technological, socioeconomic, and geopolitical factors at regional and global levels.

With the importance of data governance and protection, HADR co-hosted with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) an online workshop on the subject. The workshop, held in March, served as a platform to articulate an Asia-Pacific perspective that could contribute to the global conversation on data governance and protection.

To commemorate World Humanitarian Day, NTS Centre held a webinar on 19 August 2021, discussing responses to crises during the pandemic, the challenges, and new modalities. Observations included the need to tailor national policies in line with the needs of targeted communities in the face of increasingly complex and intertwined risks in future, and the need to invest in anticipatory humanitarian action.

The annual ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM) discussed “Advancing

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER THINK TANKS

Collaboration with other think tanks continued during the pandemic although they were held online instead.

Building on earlier efforts to address global contemporary issues such as the US-China rivalry and geopolitics, this year’s RSIS-Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) Dialogue was themed “Tackling the Nexus Between Climate Change and Security – Singapore and German Perspectives”. With the sixth assessment report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in August this year, the discussion centred around the implications of climate change on policies in the respective regions as well as how the various impact of pandemic-disaster events have threatened states and societies. This will invariably shape future policy directions – a subject of significant discussion during the Dialogue. Potential security implications on climate engineering such as managing solar radiation or removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere were examined. Hosted by RSIS, the virtual session was co-chaired by Dr Stefan Mair, the Director and Executive Chairman of SWP, and Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS.

RSIS also co-organised a series of webinars with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) from Indonesia and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) from Japan. The featured topics ranged from the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on globalisation and policies of regional governments, great power rivalry, development cooperation and sustainable growth in Southeast Asia, as well as various areas of cooperation between ASEAN member states to fight extremism and further advance regional economic integration.

Disaster Management: Into a Future of Possibilities”. Held from 24 to 26 August 2021, with RSIS as a knowledge partner, SPDDM 2021 aimed to spark discourse on future humanitarian trends, identify challenges and opportunities in the current regional situation, and facilitate discussions on outcomes from the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme for 2021-2025.

As part of the Global Research Network on Peaceful Change (GRENPEC), RSAP of IDSS held a virtual workshop on “Sources of Peace in East Asia” in January. GRENPEC is a worldwide research network comprising scholars and institutions engaged in the study of peaceful change in the international and regional levels. Among the topics covered was the role of regional middle powers in developing institutions and fostering interdependent economic activity in promoting peaceful change in the region.

RSIS also collaborated with T.V. Paul, Founding Director of GRENPEC, to write the first comprehensive treatment on the subject of peaceful change in international relations: “The Oxford Handbook of Peaceful Change in International Relations”. RSIS launched the handbook in November.

The RSIS-CAPS Workshop in October focused on the concept of strategic autonomy, defined as the “capacity to act autonomously when and where necessary and with partners wherever possible”, and of its growing importance in the European Union’s strategic thought. RSIS and the Center for Analysis, Planning and Strategy (CAPS), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France, co-organised the workshop themed “ASEAN Resilience and European Strategic Autonomy: Converging Operational Concepts”. ASEAN has long emphasised the notions of resilience and centrality and that it would not want to be caught in the middle of great power competition amidst an increasingly polarised world. The workshop explored the relevance and convergence of these policies in the current strategic outlook and how they could be implemented practically in different realms such as maritime security, cyberspace, and economic sovereignty.



**S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University
was officially launched by
Mr S R Nathan
President of the Republic of Singapore
11 December 2006**

The plaque marked the inauguration of RSIS, from IDSS.



RSiS
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Ponder the Improbable since 1996

The Faculty and Staff commemorate the 25th anniversary of
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies,
Nanyang Technological University
30 July 2021

The plaque, commemorating the 25th anniversary of IDSS/RSIS, was unveiled by Dr Tony Tan, Chairman, Board of Governors, RSIS, on 23 November 2021.

Endowments and Endowed Professorships

Upon inauguration on 1 January 2007, RSIS initiated a campaign to raise \$40 million (including dollar-for-dollar matching grants from the Singapore Government) for the RSIS Endowment Fund. With the target met, the RSIS Endowment Fund was launched on 31 March 2008 to engage world-class faculty and research staff to the School and award scholarships to talented students. It provides students with a wider choice of courses, higher levels of excellence in teaching, and increased research support.

Over the years, sponsors have contributed grants to support the activities of the School. They include the following:

- Lee Foundation
- Dr Lee Seng Tee
- Ngee Ann Kongsi
- Mr Peter Lim
- National Trades Union Congress
- Singapore Totalisator Board
- Temasek Foundation
- Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited
- International Development Research Centre
- Ancora Foundation
- Brenthurst Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- MacArthur Foundation
- Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- Singapore Press Holdings Foundation
- Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd

Other major sources of funding include the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), which engage RSIS as a knowledge partner for research.

RSIS endowment funds include provisions for four professorships established from donations together with matching grants from the government. They are the S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies, the NTUC Professorship in International Economic Relations, the Ngee Ann Kongsi Professorship in International Relations, and the Peter Lim Professorship in Peace Studies. These endowed professorships enable RSIS to engage renowned scholars from various fields to teach and conduct research at the School, besides sharing their knowledge with the wider community through public lectures and seminars.

THE NGEE ANN KONGSI PROFESSORSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Professorship in International Relations was established on 27 November 2007 through a donation of \$3 million from The Ngee Ann Kongsi and a matching grant from the Singapore Government. Income from the endowment is used to bring renowned scholars in international relations to teach and research at RSIS.

The Ngee Ann Kongsi has a long history of promoting education in Singapore; Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, has benefited from its many generous donations. The University's association with The Ngee Ann Kongsi began in the 1990s when the Kongsi donated \$1 million to the Chinese Heritage Centre located in NTU. In 2005, The Ngee Ann Kongsi also donated \$1.5 million to set up The Ngee Ann

Kongsi Professorship in Traditional Chinese Medicine to help develop the University's expertise in traditional Chinese medicine. Besides these, it has also awarded many scholarships and bursaries to students at NTU over the years.

Mr Stephen Roach, Senior Fellow, Jackson Institute of Global Affairs, and Senior Lecturer, School of Management, Yale University, USA, and Former Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, and Prof Rana Mitter, Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, University of Oxford, gave The Ngee Ann Kongsi Distinguished Public Lectures online in 2021. Mr Roach spoke on "The US-China Relationship: From Conflict to Resolution", while Prof Mitter spoke on "Chinese Nationalism: How Its Past is Shaping Its Future".



Mr Stephen Roach



Prof Rana Mitter

S. T. LEE DISTINGUISHED ANNUAL LECTURE

RSIS also holds the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture, where renowned scholars and policymakers are invited to speak to a Singapore-wide audience on key strategic issues of our time.

Established in 2007, the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture series is funded by an endowment established from a generous personal donation by Dr Lee Seng Tee, a well-known Singaporean philanthropist, and with a matching grant from the Singapore Government. Dr Lee is a well-known benefactor of educational establishments both local and overseas, including NTU Singapore.

Dr Parag Khanna, Founder and Managing Partner of FutureMap, gave the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture in 2021, on "Move: The Forces Uprooting Us".



Dr Parag Khanna

S. RAJARATNAM PROFESSORSHIP IN STRATEGIC STUDIES

The S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies at RSIS was established in honour of Mr S. Rajaratnam's distinguished services to the nation. Inaugurated on 31 August 1998, the professorship brings on board distinguished scholars in strategic studies and related fields to participate in teaching and research activities at the School. This enables RSIS to increase its international network as well as benefit from the knowledge, experience, and wisdom of eminent scholars appointed to the chair.

Mr S. Rajaratnam, born in 1915, was elected Member of Parliament for Kampung Glam in 1959 and continued to represent the constituency until his retirement in 1988. He became the Minister for Culture in 1959 and the Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1965 and, in the latter



Mr S. Rajaratnam

capacity, took on a second portfolio as the Minister for Labour from 1968 to 1971. He became Second Deputy Prime Minister (Foreign Affairs) in 1980, after which he was appointed Senior Minister until his retirement. He passed away in 2006.

The professorship was made possible by the \$2.6 million fund (excluding a matching grant from the Singapore Government) raised by the Fund Raising Committee. The committee was chaired by Mr S. Chandra Das, former Member of Parliament for Cheng San Group Representative Constituency (1980-1996). Income generated from the invested funds helps maintain the professorship.

Due to the continued COVID-19 global pandemic travel restrictions in 2021, there was no visiting professor under the endowment.

relations amongst its different communities, so that the nation will continue to enjoy peace and harmony. The endowment enables the SRP Programme to appoint a professor who can lead the programme in researching and teaching peace studies.

Appointed on 15 October 2015, Dr Abdullah Saeed holds this endowed chair. Dr Abdullah Saeed is currently the Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies and Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor at the University of Melbourne, Australia.



Launch of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies Endowment Fund, 31 March 2008

PETER LIM PROFESSORSHIP IN PEACE STUDIES

The Peter Lim Professorship in Peace Studies was launched on 9 June 2014 during the inauguration of RSIS' Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme.

The professorship was established through a gift of \$3 million from Mr Peter Lim and a matching grant from the Singapore Government. Mr Lim, a well-known Singaporean philanthropist, hoped that his donation can bring together distinguished scholars and thought leaders to study how Singapore can further preserve and promote the existing harmonious

NATIONAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS (NTUC) PROFESSORSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

In 2007, the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) raised a total of \$2.5 million which, with additional funding from the Singapore Government and other sources, enabled RSIS to establish an endowed chair known as the NTUC Professorship in International Economic Relations.

Set up in 1961, the NTUC is the national federation of trade unions in Singapore whose basic aim is to safeguard and enhance the interests of workers.

Income from the endowment enables RSIS to appoint an NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations.

For the year 2021, there was no visiting professor under the endowment.

COMMEMORATIVE SERIES

As part of the commemoration of 25 years of RSIS/IDSS, scholars have contributed articles on topical issues.

To read the RSIS Commemorative/Event Reports, please scan the QR codes below:



Biden's Burden: The Political Occlusion of Policy
By Adam Garfinkle, 15 July 2021



Reflections on the Tenets of Foreign Policy of Southeast Asian States
By Takashi Inoguchi, 29 June 2021



Evolution of Finance and Central Bank Policies: India and Southeast Asia
By Duvvuri Subbarao, 25 February 2021



Southeast Asia Revisited in Trump Time
By Bernard Gordon, 30 June 2020

Research at Centres and Programmes

INSTITUTE OF DEFENCE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES (IDSS)

The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) is consistently ranked among the top think tanks in the region. On top of academic and policy-oriented publications, IDSS hosts conferences and webinars, and conducts regular briefings to government officials and other parties. The research agenda and activities of IDSS in 2021 were in accordance with the respective emphases of its nine programmes.

These programmes are China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maritime Security, Military Studies, Military Transformations, Regional Security Architecture, South Asia, and the United States. The Major Powers cluster comprises China and the United States; Indonesia and Malaysia are grouped as Malaysia-Indonesia; while Military Transformations, together with the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies' (NTS Centre) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief programme, form Emerging Security.

The Military Studies Programme focuses on professional military education for the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). In 2021, it continued to teach most of its courses online due to constraints imposed by the novel coronavirus, and actively developed new courses to meet the SAF's contemporary demands.

For the Major Powers, the US team closely monitored developments regarding US defence and security policies, assessing their strategic ramifications on Singapore-US relations. Despite the ongoing pandemic, it continued to engage US think tanks in virtual exchanges and events. The China team published its research in leading journals such as the Australian Journal of International Affairs, Asian Perspectives, and Asian Survey, as well as a volume with Amsterdam University Press. It also produced various policy-relevant deliverables, including commentaries in various outlets.

Within the Malaysia-Indonesia cluster, the Malaysia team published papers on key developments in Malaysia's domestic and foreign policies, including party and coalition politics, the COVID-19 pandemic,

and Malaysia's emerging security and border challenges. It further organised regular webinars featuring Malaysian politicians and analysts. The Indonesian team focused on the Indonesian military, particularly its role in Indonesia's battle against the COVID-19 pandemic and the evolution of the special forces' role in counter-terrorism operations. Its research was published in a special issue of the Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs, as well as in other journals and op-ed platforms. Beyond research, the Indonesia team invited speakers from the defence and security sector for its public events.

Staff in the Regional Security Architecture Programme focused on the evolving regional order and the supporting institutional architectures, as well as key regional powers and their impacts. In addition to reports and publications, the team continued networking activities through convening several workshops and the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI). As for the South Asia Programme, staff took part in over a dozen seminars and produced research across numerous formats. Amongst its publications were op-eds on South Asia's geopolitics, a journal article in International Politics, as well as a book chapter on Singapore-India relations in Professor Tommy Koh's edited volume, *India on Our Minds*.

The Maritime Security Programme covered a broad spectrum of related issues in its research, teaching, and networking agenda. In 2021, it led RSIS' co-hosting of the 7th International Maritime Security Conference with the Republic of Singapore Navy. The first large-scale maritime conference since the pandemic's onset, this hybrid event brought together service chiefs, senior international navy leaders, and world-class scholars from 28 countries to explore the topic of "Safe and Secure Seas - Maritime Security in the New Normal." The Military Transformations Programme provided analyses on questions related to strategic competition for emerging technologies and defence innovation. Its contributions included a special issue of the prestigious Journal of Strategic Studies, and a Track 1.5 international conference on "Building Inclusive and Trustworthy AI Governance".

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM RESEARCH (ICPVTR)

Despite the challenges brought upon by COVID-19 in 2021, the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) expanded its research output, strategic partnerships, and capacity-building efforts. In doing so, its reputation as a leading regional Counterterrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) institute was further distinguished.

Throughout 2021, there was sustained interest in ICPVTR's major activities which included several series of webinars and roundtable discussions with partner institutes, and expert briefings for select government and private sector entities, both local and regional.

ICPVTR's 2021 research engagements and publications focused on our traditional areas of expertise in jihadist terrorism in Southeast Asia and South Asia, as well as incipient trends in violent far-right and non-Islamist groups. The Centre also explored in greater detail the European security landscape and the ramifications of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

Publications and Research

ICPVTR researchers continued to publish in international peer-reviewed journals in 2021, including *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, the *International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague*, *Journal of Islam and Civilisational Renewal*, *Perspectives on Terrorism*, and other platforms, such as edited volumes and national reviews such as the ASEAN-Australia Review 2020.

Aside from regular policy reports on latest jihadist developments in Southeast Asia and South Asia, the Centre also produced two highly well-received research initiatives - i) a geo-spatial mapping database of militancy in Southeast Asia, believed to be the first of its kind in the region, and ii) a conceptual mapping of the extreme far-right phenomenon spanning the globe, and those of specific interest to Singapore. Both initiatives were followed-up by research publications produced by Centre analysts. The geo-mapping database, known as the Southeast Asian Militant Atlas, has also been made available to external researchers

as part of the Centre's facilitation of data-driven CT research.

Shorter pieces by Centre analysts were also featured in local and foreign media platforms such as *RSIS Commentary*, *The Diplomat*, *The Straits Times* and *TODAY*, amongst others. The media especially sought ICPVTR's views on latest developments in Afghanistan and the wider implications.

Partnerships

Following ICPVTR establishing relations with the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies of Uzbekistan in October 2020, the Centre's interest in Central Asian extremist developments was furthered through a roundtable with the Imam Maturidi International Scientific Research Center which specialises in counter-ideology and rehabilitation research. In August 2021, ICPVTR also strengthened relations with the Naif Arab University of Security Studies (NAUSS), a key Middle East university which trains the region's security officials. In September, ICPVTR provided a virtual presentation at a NAUSS-organised workshop in Cairo.

Capacity Building

After a one year hiatus, and to cope with pandemic-related restrictions, ICPVTR proceeded with a hybrid version of its principal capacity-building programme, the annual Terrorism Analyst Training Course (TATC), in Singapore, where 32 local-based participants from the government and private sectors heard from 31 speakers, either in-person or online, from Southeast Asia, South Asia, Australia, Europe, the UK, and the US.

ICPVTR also organised a series of well-received webinars. The series on "Terrorism and Extremism in Europe" discussing jihadist and far-right developments in the continent was kicked off by Ms Suzaine Raine, former Head of the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre in the UK. The series on "Terrorism and Extremism in Southeast Asia" featured lectures including one from renowned terrorism expert Ms Sidney Jones. Responding to the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, ICPVTR's third series "What Next for Afghanistan and the War on Terror" explored the question from the perspectives of three former senior national security officials from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the US which included Lieutenant General H. R. McMaster, a former National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump.

ICPVTR also provided expert briefings on overall terrorist developments, deradicalisation, rehabilitation and terrorism financing for various professional, government, and community organisations.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY (CENS)

The Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) has three component programmes: the Cyber and Homeland Defence Programme (CHDP), the Social Resilience Programme (SRP), and the Radicalisation Studies Programme (RSP).

The CHDP has continued to contribute to thought leadership across a wide array of inter-related research areas. This included writing chapters in the Routledge Handbook of International Cybersecurity and Home Team Behavioural Sciences Centre's "How to Prepare for the Next Pandemic", collaborating with the industry on the policy report "Cyber-Risk Management of Operational Technology and Industrial Control Systems", publishing topical commentaries on Solarwinds (cyber breach) and Cyber Diplomacy as well as Smart Nation: Privacy Protection and Public Trust (Trace Together), and Tik Tok and National Security, building on the annual DRUMS (Distortions Rumours Untruths Misinformation Smears) webinar to launch a new specialisation Gender, Security, and Digital Space webinar series, developing more recent fields such as Technology Nationalism and Artificial Intelligence Strategy, while preserving the long standing focus on international law of cyber operations by presenting papers at the CSCAP Study Group, NADI, and NATO CCD COE Symposium.

Issues of multiculturalism, race, and inter-group relations have featured on the agenda for the SRP throughout the year. CENS co-organised the 25 June 2021 IPS-RSIS Forum on Race and Racism in Singapore, a timely discussion that addressed recent accounts of racism in Singapore (the Forum featured a keynote by Finance Minister Lawrence Wong, moderated by the head of CENS, Dr Shashi Jayakumar). Separately, Dr Terri-Anne Teo authored a journal article on sexual citizenship amongst the LGBTQ+ community in Singapore. She also collaborated on a commentary on xenophobia and ontological security with Yasmine Wong. Yasmine authored commentaries on issues of xenophobia and inequalities, with attention to digital space. SRP was also involved in organising a collaborative webinar series between The High Commission of Canada and CENS titled "Gender, Security and Digital Space: Exploring

Risks, Opportunities, and Security Implications" (May 2021).

The RSP has continued to conduct timely research on violent extremism: the policies and practice of managing its prevention in Southeast Asia. In a year of global upheaval, COVID-19 became a clear focus for analysis. Writing for the Asia Foundation, Joseph Franco discussed cross-border trade in the Southern Philippines during the pandemic, while continuing to evaluate the region's post-Marawi dynamics. Cameron Sumpter undertook research with the UNODC on the impact of COVID-19 on counterterrorism and preventing violent extremism in Indonesia. Among Shashi Jayakumar's publications was an assessment of Singapore's deradicalisation model in the *Journal for Deradicalisation*.

As a core member of GNET, the RSP contributed an in-depth policy report on "Polarising Narratives and Deepening Fault Lines" in four Asian Nations, and staged well-received online GNET (Global Network on Extremism) workshops through 2020-21 (an example was the GNET-CENS Online Workshop on Right Wing Extremism: East and West in May 2021). RSP also ran an extensive survey on trends and developments regarding violent extremism and prevention, which collected over 70 responses from our professional network of experts around the world, and resulted in two RSIS Policy Reports.

CENTRE FOR NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES (NTS CENTRE)

In 2021, the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) remained active and productive, sharing its analyses through books, journal articles, policy reports, Op-Eds, and participation in expert discussions (ASEAN, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia and the Governing Council of the International Studies Association). As Secretariat to the NTS-Asia Consortium (comprising 31 research institutes and think tanks in the region), work and engagement continued, including the holding of its annual conference online.

COVID-19 and Governance

The Centre actively contributed to regional and global discussions on COVID-19, its multifaceted implications, and governance. Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of the Centre, continued working on various issues of global governance in a post-pandemic world. She was a guest speaker at various international forums, such

as the 3rd "Climate Security in 3D" dialogue organised by Wilton Park and Adelphi in March, the UN ESCAP Roundtable in April, and the CSIS Indonesia 50th Anniversary Foreign Policy Dialogue in September. Her article "Towards a multipolar order post-pandemic", which argued for the strengthening of global leadership and multilateralism, was published in the special issue of East Asia Forum Quarterly.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme published one edited book and two special journal issues related to humanitarian action in the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to other publications. It was the consulting partner of ASEAN for the publication ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook launched during the 39th ASEAN Committee for Disaster Management Meeting in October 2021. The programme continues to serve as knowledge partner for the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

The climate security team shared a Southeast Asian perspective on the Biden administration and climate change in an opinion piece, "Biden's Welcome Climate Reboot and the Daunting Diplomacy Ahead", published by the Council of Councils in April. The team organised a webinar on "Human Security as a Framework to better Understand Impacts of Climate Change" on 8 July, and published an NTS Insight on the same theme in September.

Food Security

The food security team was commissioned by ASEAN and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to assess the status of digital technology utilisation in ASEAN's food and agriculture sector, and to identify policy initiatives for upscaling, amid challenges posed by climate change and COVID-19. The team spoke on food system transformation at the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 Dialogues in May, and published a report on how digitally-enabled community food farming can contribute Singapore's food security.

Marine Environmental Protection

The NTS Centre has received a grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia to undertake research on marine environmental issues in Southeast Asia under the project titled "Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership Baseline Study on regional collaborative arrangements in marine

ecology: Options for the Indian Ocean". This project is in collaboration with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, the Chesterfield Lane Pte Ltd, Australia, and the Observer Research Foundation in India.

Nuclear Energy

The NTS Centre organised a webinar on "Nuclear Security Governance in the Asia-Pacific: Pathways to Cooperation" on 29 July. This webinar explored key nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation issues, and the multiple pathways towards enhancing nuclear governance. The Centre co-organised with CSCAP Singapore and Pacific Forum a virtual meeting of the CSCAP Nuclear Energy Experts Group on 28 and 29 September which discussed nuclear power and climate change, the peaceful use of nuclear technology, and trade and nuclear governance.

Migration

The Centre's research on migration focused on the protection of vulnerable communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. The Centre was a co-convenor of the Asia Pacific Partnership for Atrocities Prevention Working Group on COVID-19, which published the report "COVID-19 Implications for Atrocities Prevention: Lessons from East Asia" in June.

NTU SSHR2025 Strategic Plan

The Centre is also participating in the NTU Social Science and Humanities Research 2025 (SSHR2025) Strategic Plan programme. Being part of the Sustainability and Resilience cluster, the NTS Centre has proposed "Planetary Health" as the overarching research topic to offer both theoretical and practical relevance in shaping a more resilient world post-COVID-19. NTS Centre has invited the participation of researchers from other Schools in NTU to explore inter-disciplinary collaboration, such as the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Business School, National Institute of Education.

CENTRE FOR MULTILATERALISM STUDIES (CMS)

The Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS) conducts cutting-edge research, education, training, and networking on cooperative multilateralism in the Asia Pacific region. The Centre aims to contribute to international academic and public discourses at a time when economic and security architectures in the region are rapidly evolving or under threat from

nationalist sentiments. It does this mainly through the lenses of economic multilateralism, and diplomatic and security multilateralism.

CMS' research on economic multilateralism pertains to issues of trade, monetary, and financial integration in ASEAN and the broader region; evolving linkages between various Asian sub-regions and with countries/sub-regions outside the region; as well as examining relationships among global and regional economic governance institutions.

The Centre's research on diplomatic and security multilateralism focuses on inter-governmental mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN+3, East Asia Summit, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Shangri-La Dialogue, and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific.

CMS' 2021 research outputs are reflected by published works examining various issues including the US-China rivalry, comparative regionalism vis-à-vis ASEAN, the European Union, and the African Union, and also theorising small states' perspectives on international order. The Political Economy team published research that looked beyond COVID-19's impact, focusing on decentralising international trade architecture, the impact of IMF Programme and Conditionality on Labour Rights, and the meaning of economic security and renewable energy governance in Malaysia and Indonesia.

In 2021, the Centre started adapting to COVID-19's impact by staging its flagship annual RSIS-WTO Parliamentary Workshop fully online for the first time in its 11-year history. Despite the difficulties of coordinating across Central European and Asian time zones, the event was a remarkable success given the mixed business and diplomatic representatives who responded readily to invitations to serve as panellists. Equally impressive was the fact that close to 70% of the Asian parliamentarians invited showed up online. Additionally, CMS staff have produced a number of commentaries supplying a political economy perspective on how ASEAN, the RCEP, and trade arrangements can help or hinder economic recovery. CMS' staff in the diplomatic and security section also produced a number of noteworthy commentaries on the EU states' deployments into the Indo-Pacific, as well as assessments of the prospects of a solution to the

Myanmar coup and subsequent civil war.

In collaboration with the Temasek Foundation, CMS staff also facilitated the Virtual In-Country Workshop on International Trade Issues for Vietnam and the Philippines in September and October 2021. The aim was to help civil servants in the two countries gain insights into how trade negotiations ought to be conducted and the latest issues involving multilateral trade. CMS also conducted the first run of its first ever new flagship event, the three-day CMS Webinar Series on "Economic Multilateralism for Post-COVID-19 Recovery" in November 2021. This was part of a new set of topics to be explored biennially under the "Asian Perspectives on the World Economy" roundtable series.

Furthermore, CMS staged a webinar titled "Post-Pandemic Multilateralism and Diplomacy" over three days in February 2021 to audiences based in Singapore and across East Asia and Europe. CMS also hosted several related webinars on mapping digital policies, digital diplomacy and updates on regionalism in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. A book launch webinar titled "Contesting Sovereignty: Power and Practice in Africa and Southeast Asia" in July 2021 showcased the latest research from Dr Joel Ng from CMS itself.

CMS staff were also frequently interviewed by leading media outlets such as *The Straits Times*, *the Business Times*, *South China Morning Post*, *Lianhe Zaobao*, *Channel NewsAsia*, *Channel U*, *Reuters*, *Nikkei Asia*, *Asahi Shimbun*, and *the Voice of America*.

STUDIES IN INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONS IN PLURAL SOCIETIES (SRP) PROGRAMME

The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme adapted itself to the COVID-19 pandemic to continue with its research, publications, and community engagements, contributing to the development of thinking and discourse in the study of inter-religious relations in plural societies, particularly benefiting Singapore.

Disseminating Knowledge Beyond RSIS

2021 was a good year for the SRP Programme. Faculty

member Assoc Prof Paul Hedges published two new books titled *Understanding Religion: Theories and Methods for Studying Religiously Diverse Societies* (University of California Press) and *Religious Hatred: Prejudice, Islamophobia, and Antisemitism in Global Context* (Bloomsbury). Two webinars were organised in conjunction with the book launches, participated by both local and international scholars.

The SRP Programme shared its academic resources with stakeholders of religious harmony in Singapore, despite restrictions imposed by the pandemic, through four webinars and two "in-person" engagement sessions.

The themes of the four webinars were as follows: i) Understanding Christian Far-Right Extremism - Politics, Theologies, Conspiracies; ii) Buddhist Nationalisms in South-East Asia - Implications for Plural Societies; iii) Jewish Representation of Islam through Thoughts of Saadia Gaon; and iv) Regional Trends in Interreligious Relations 2020.

Two "in-person" engagement sessions were: i) SRP Executive Programme 2021 with the theme "Religion, Hatred, Law and the Pandemic" (23-24 March) and ii) Interreligious Dialogue Skills Workshop that discussed the theme "Common Good as Understood by Various Religious Traditions" (23 October). Both programmes attracted a total of 81 participants from the civil service, people, and religious sectors.

The webinar on regional trends in interreligious relations was based on a year-long monitoring of the experiences of Asian countries in the strategic areas of religion, conflict, and peacebuilding.

Building Capacity for Singapore's Interreligious Sector

In teaching at the MSc level for AY2020/2021, the SRP Programme offered eight modules to good response. Offered as electives for the School's MSc programmes, 84 students were enrolled in the eight modules.

Additionally, for AY2020/21, 23 members of religious, community, and public service organisations participated in the Community Access Programme where they participated in the above modules without needing to register as students.

Research Contributions in Field of Interreligious Relations

The SRP Programme's research plan for the next three years (2021-2023) includes three new areas of interest: i) Christian Far-Right Extremism - Possible Impact on Singapore; ii) Buddhist Nationalism in Mainland Southeast Asia and its Impact on Interreligious Relations; and iii) Hindu Nationalism - Implications for Multi-religious Societies. The first two projects are in progress while the third will commence early next year.

Meanwhile, research on four other areas of study progressed well in the year. The first project was a collaboration between Assoc Prof Paul Hedges from the SRP Programme, and Prof Abdullah Saeed from the University of Melbourne and concurrent adviser to the SRP Programme. The project titled "Transformation of Traditional Exclusivist Islamic Legal and Theological Positions on the Religious 'Other' in Muslim Majority and Minority Contexts" was funded by the Australian Research Council.

The remaining three research projects are in progress, namely, i) Study on interreligious Relations/landscape in Singapore; ii) Muslims and interreligious relations in plural societies; and iii) Islam and secularism in Singapore. Articles and op-ed pieces were published based on the findings of the ongoing research.

The SRP Programme's peer-reviewed online journal titled *Interreligious Relations* entered its third year of publication. A total of 25 articles have been published since its launch in April 2019. The series examined issues of religious diversity, religious contextualisation, religion-state interactions, and religiously motivated violence and peacebuilding. The journal's editorial board comprised 25 renowned scholars from around the world.

NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES PROGRAMME (NSSP)

Generating intellectual capital and awareness of the milestones in Singapore's national security history, the National Security Studies Programme (NSSP) conducts academic and policy-relevant research on the evolving national security landscape. Focused on security matters associated with the "Singapore model", NSSP's efforts centre on the key challenges facing small, globalised, multi-ethnic city-states.

Apart from conducting contracted research for national security policymaker and practitioner audiences, NSSP researchers contributed to academic and public discussions on national security issues via outlets such as the RSIS Commentary series. NSSP faculty and researchers also contributed chapters to the following books: *How to Prepare for the Next Pandemic: Behavioural Sciences Insights for Practitioners and Policymakers* published in January 2021, and *Strategy and Defence Policy for Small States: Problems and Prospects* scheduled to be launched in December 2021. In September 2021, NSSP conducted the soft launch of *Communist Party of Malaya: A Comprehensive Bibliography*. The actual launch of *Communist Party of Malaya: A Comprehensive Bibliography* is scheduled for January 2022.

Executive education is a significant aspect of NSSP's work. NSSP faculty and researchers are involved in the delivery of the National Security Milestone Programme and National Security Executive Programme for civil service leaders. NSSP faculty and researchers also lectured in courses conducted at the Home Team Academy and SAFTI Military Institute. Additionally, NSSP is collaborating with the Ministry of National Education on a workshop for secondary school history teachers.

On 4 March 2021, a webinar jointly organised by the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research and NSSP on "The UK Experience of Learning Lessons from Countering Terrorism 2014 to 2020" was held. The speaker, Mr Neil Basu, Assistant Commissioner for Specialist Operations, Metropolitan Police Service and Senior Officer-in-Charge of Counter Terrorism Policing, United Kingdom shared his experiences working at the heart of the United Kingdom's counterterrorism apparatus. On 20 August 2021, Professor Chiyuki Aoi, Professor of International Security at the Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo delivered a webinar on Japan's Views on Hybrid Threats. She shared on contemporary Japanese perception of hybrid conflicts, and the corresponding strategies adopted by the Japanese government to combat these conflicts. Both events are part of the NSSP Distinguished Visitors Programme. Mr Basu and Prof Aoi also held discussions and exchanged ideas with various senior government officials.

NSSP will continue to produce policy-oriented

research for both the local practitioner community and the general academic and public audiences.

POLICY STUDIES GROUP (PSG)

In 2021, the Policy Studies Group (PSG) continued its efforts to identify and strengthen research capacity on emerging policy topics. PSG researchers have been actively involved in NTU's Social Science and Humanities Research 2025 (SSHR2025) exercise since 2020, and contribute to new research initiatives and support collaborative efforts across NTU colleges. In addition, PSG maintained its mandate of public outreach and education efforts with various academic and functional sectors.

SSHR2025

The PSG team plays an active role in supporting NTU's SSHR2025 Strategic Plan which was officially launched in September 2021. Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna, Associate Dean in charge of Policy Studies, is leading one of six research clusters on the theme of Sustainability and Resilience. Working collaboratively with the other cluster members from RSIS, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CoHASS), Nanyang Business School (NBS), and National Institute of Education (NIE), PSG encourages and coordinates research collaboration between RSIS and other NTU researchers in five inter-related domains, namely Secure Society, Healthy Communities, Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Industry, and Civil Society. In the last quarter of 2021, PSG organised brainstorming sessions to support interdisciplinary research initiatives.

Policy-Relevant Research

The PSG team produced publications on new domains of interest to RSIS, including resilient and secure societies, pandemic management, as well as preparing for post-pandemic futures. Dr Norman Vasu, Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Policy Studies Group, published an RSIS commentary titled "Towards ICCS 2022 - Cohesive Societies, Shared Humanity: Looking Back, Moving Forward" in July. Ms Tan Ming Hui, Associate Research Fellow, published pieces including "What would our future workplace look like?" in TODAY in March, and "Building resilient, sustainable and secure cities for a post-COVID-19 world" in East Asia Forum in May. She also co-authored a commentary on "The COVID-19 Endgame: Does Southeast Asia Need More Than Resilience?" in The Diplomat in March.

Public Outreach and Education

PSG maintained public outreach to various academic and functional sectors in 2021. Throughout the year, Assoc Prof Ramakrishna delivered lectures on topics ranging from Islamist extremism and radicalisation, and threats to Singapore's internal security, at the Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College. He engaged with military officers across a range of courses, including the Executive Strategic Studies and Operations Other than War (OOTW) modules, as well as the 8th Senior Commanders' Programme. He was also active at the Home Team Academy, where he addressed officers attending the Home Team Senior Command and Staff Course in October, speaking on topics relating to the evolution of the transnational terrorist threat, in addition to religious fundamentalism and the implications for Southeast Asia. PSG

maintained its community outreach activities as well. In May, Assoc Prof Ramakrishna shared his insights on the topic of "Terrorism" at an Assembly Talk for Secondary Four students at the Nanyang Girls' High School. A significant PSG community engagement effort involved the SG CORE (Cohesion and Resilience) Programme inaugurated in September. This ground-up initiative is spearheaded by non-governmental group Humanity Matters and supported by Temasek Foundation, as well as the SGSecure national movement to train the community to be prepared for terror attacks. In this respect, Assoc Prof Ramakrishna worked with SG CORE partners to share on the threat of self-radicalisation and extremism to audiences drawn from national servicemen, officers and volunteers from the police force, civil defence and uniformed groups in schools.

RSIS PARTICIPATION IN NTU SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Social Science and Humanities Research 2025 (SSHR2025) Strategic Plan harnesses the diversity of academia in NTU to position the university at the forefront of research in the fields of arts, social sciences, humanities, education, and business. A Working Group of faculty members from RSIS, with the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Business School, National Institute of Education, are working on six non-STEM interdisciplinary clusters: (i) Sustainability and Resilience; (ii) Culture and Creativity; (iii) Education and Transformation; (iv) Leadership and Disruptive Innovation; (v) Human Behaviour and Technology; and (vi) Language and Heritage.

Prof Ang Cheng Guan, Associate Dean, is a member of Cluster 3 (Education and Transformation), while Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang is involved in Cluster 4 (Leadership and Disruptive Innovation). Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna, Associate Dean in charge of Policy Studies, leads the cluster on Sustainability and Resilience.

The Policy Studies Group, headed by Assoc Prof Ramakrishna, works with the other Schools to encourage and coordinate research collaboration between RSIS and other NTU researchers in five inter-related domains: (i) Secure Society; (ii) Healthy Communities; (iii) Sustainable Environment; (iv) Sustainable Industry; and (v) Civil Society.

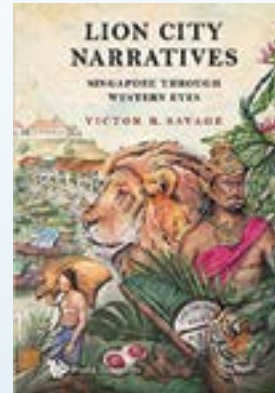
Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony is also a member of the Sustainability and Resilience cluster. Prof Caballero-Anthony and the NTS Centre, which she heads, have proposed "Planetary Health" as the overarching research topic and have invited participation from researchers from the other Schools involved in the SSHR2025 Strategic Plan to work collaboratively towards a more resilient world post-COVID-19.

Books by RSIS Staff



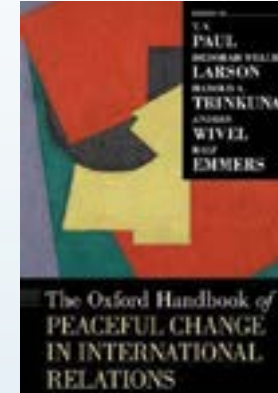
Strategy and Defence Policy for Small States: Problems and Prospects

Bernard Loo
World Scientific Publishing
ISBN: 9789811244285



Lion City Narratives: Singapore Through Western Eyes

Victor R. Savage
World Scientific Publishing
ISBN: 9789811229152



The Oxford Handbook of Peaceful Change in International Relations

T. V. Paul, Deborah Welch Larson, Harold A. Trinkunas, Anders Wivel, Ralf Emmers (Eds.)
Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780190097356



Research Handbook on the Belt and Road Initiative

Joseph Liow Chin Yong, Hong Liu and Xue Gong (Eds.)
Edward Elgar Publishing
ISBN: 9781789908701



A History of the People's Action Party, 1985-2021

Shashi Jayakumar
NUS Press
ISBN: 9789813251281



The Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation

Ang Cheng Guan
Routledge
ISBN: 9781032009261



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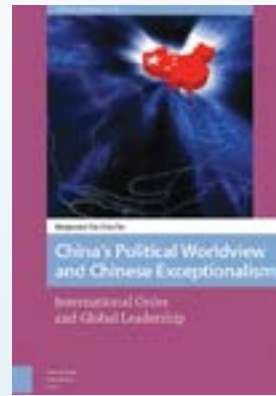
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Books by RSIS Staff



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Benjamin Ho
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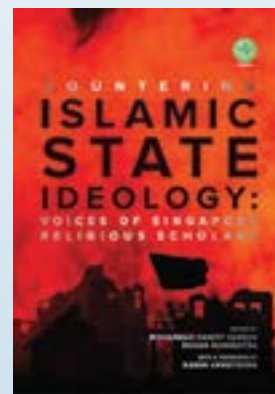
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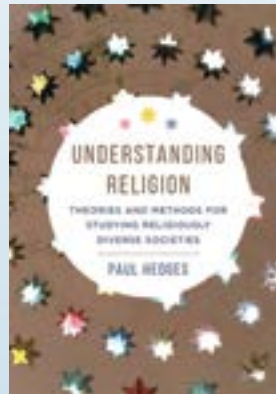
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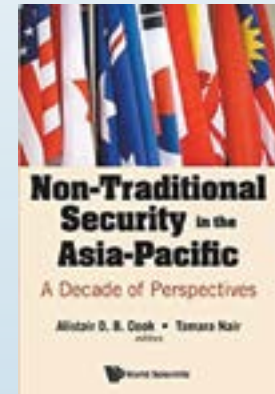
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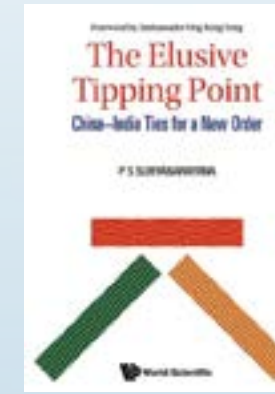
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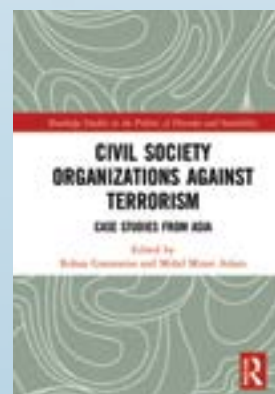
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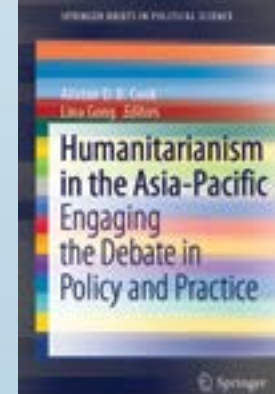
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Farish A. Noor and Peter-Brian Ramsay Carey (Eds.)
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Milestones

1998

IDSS launched its first academic programme, the Master of Science in Strategic Studies, with ten students

2002

IDSS launched its second master's programme, the Master of Science in International Relations

2003/2004

IDSS welcomed its first doctoral student

2004

IDSS launched the Master of Science in International Political Economy

2004

IDSS launched the Master of Science in International Political Economy

2008

RSIS launched the Master of Science in Asian Studies

2010

RSIS introduced the two-year NTU-Warwick Double Master's Programme

“

One function that Mr S R Nathan envisioned is education. "Its education function would, over time, grow a community of scholars and practitioners that would be underpinned by the rigorous academic education programmes IDSS would offer."

Dr Bernard Loo in IDSS At 25:
Pondering the Improbable

”

Graduate Education

Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings 2021



Master of Science (MSc) Programmes

For the new academic year (AY), RSIS MSc programmes have continued to attract a cosmopolitan student body with a wide range of educational, professional, and cultural backgrounds. More than 200 students from 33 countries (including students from Chile for the first time) enrolled in RSIS MSc programmes in AY2021/2022. Seventeen students received scholarships and study awards, including the RSIS Scholarship, the Lee Foundation Scholarship, and Student Research Assistantships.

Partnering with the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University, two RSIS master's students attended their US Foreign Policy Summer Programme 2021 online.

Doctoral Programme

The PhD programme offered by RSIS also has a diverse and cosmopolitan student body comprising 17 doctoral candidates, including two new PhD students who joined RSIS in July 2021. The students are of eight different nationalities hailing from countries across Asia, North America, and South America. Some of these students are integrated into both RSIS institutional and individual faculty research programmes for an enriched learning experience whilst a broad-based collegial research effort continues to be supported.

One of our PhD students met his graduation requirements by July 2021, raising the number of RSIS PhD graduates to 29. His final thesis topic was "Wars, Fought and Unfought: China and the Sino-Indian Border Dispute".

Convocation

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on RSIS graduate teaching, with all courses in Trimester 3 transitioning fully online during Singapore's heightened alert period in May. The Graduate Programmes Office (GPO) worked closely with the teaching team to ensure a seamless transition and to minimise any disruption to our students' education and graduation timelines. The students themselves demonstrated extraordinary resilience adapting to the new circumstances, successfully overcoming the challenges posed by the new teaching model and graduating in time.

The RSIS class of 2021 comprising 160 master's students (including six NTU-Warwick Double Master's students) marked their graduation on 10 July through our Virtual Graduation Celebration via Zoom.

Assoc Prof Bhubhinder Singh, Head of Graduate Studies at RSIS, presented the academic award winners for AY2020/2021. They included five master's students who distinguished themselves through their outstanding academic achievements.

Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS and Prof Ralf Emmers, Dean of RSIS, congratulated the graduates and in their respective messages to the students encouraged them to remain resilient and remain connected with the RSIS family.

Mr Eddie Lim, President of the RSIS Alumni Association, welcomed the graduates to the RSIS Alumni Association and shared the social platforms which they could join to be part of the growing RSIS alumni family.

Outreach and Engagement

RSIS continued to strengthen its outreach initiatives for quality enrolments and engagement with its growing alumni network. These included information-sharing sessions, Masterclasses on key international affairs topics to showcase RSIS teaching, as well as participating in leading postgraduate education fairs in Singapore and overseas. Due to travel and other restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, GPO has leveraged various online platforms to engage prospective students and will continue to strengthen its outreach by engaging relevant organisations on the value of professional graduate education RSIS offers. The RSIS alumni network also bears testimony to the value of the MSc Programmes, adding to a growing community steeped in knowledge of international relations and strategic geopolitical issues.



Professor Ang Cheng Guan
Associate Dean and
Deputy Director of IDSS

Professor Ralf Emmers
Dean and President's Chair
in International Relations

**Associate Professor
Bhubhinder Singh**
Head of Graduate Studies

“RSIS is a good place to pursue a doctoral degree if one is interested in the international and strategic affairs of Asia. The School provides first-class support in collecting empirical data, networking and conference participation. Its high-quality degree programme transforms students into independent researchers who drive their own academic projects. Professor and supervisors teach students the generic principles of research and ways of implementing those principles in practice. The programme strikes the right balance between academic guidance and the freedom a student needs to complete a project at his or her own pace.

Daniel Balasz, PhD Graduate, AY2020/2021

”

Gold Medals, Book Prize for Outstanding Students

The most outstanding student in each of the respective Master's Programmes is awarded a Gold Medal each year. A book prize is also given to the student with the best dissertation. The Gold Medals and Book Prize have been donated by the respective sponsors for close to two decades. The awards for AY2020/2021 are listed below. We thank the sponsors for their generous donations and continuous support through the years.



The United Overseas Bank Gold Medal

The United Overseas Bank Gold Medal has been donated by the Overseas Union Bank (renamed as UOB Ltd) since 1999.

Ms Teeratanabodee Wichuta
MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme



The Singapore Technologies Engineering Gold Medal

The Singapore Technologies Engineering Gold Medal has been donated by the Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd since 2002.

Mr Kevin Chen
MSc (International Relations) Programme



The Lion Group Gold Medal

The Lion Group Gold Medal has been donated by The Lion Group since 2004.

Mr Alexander Lipke
MSc (International Political Economy) Programme



The Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Gold Medal

The Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Gold Medal is donated by the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Ltd in 2008.

Mr Loo Bin Hui
MSc (Asian Studies) Programme



Tay Seow Huah Book Prize

The Tay Seow Huah Book Prize was established in December 2000 by the late Mr Tay Seow Huah's children, Joanne Tay Siok Wan and Simon S C Tay, and a small group of relatives, friends and former colleagues, including His Excellency President S R Nathan, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Mr Tay's death. The book prize is awarded to a graduating Master's Programme student with the best dissertation, and is given across the MSc Programmes.

Ms Sylvia Koh Wan Ping
MSc (Asia Studies)



Photo: randomised montage of photos contributed by the class of AY2020/2021

Names (in alphabetical order):

Alexander Lipke, Allysa Faye Jemina Javier, Amresh Lavan Gunasingham, James Ang Searn Wei, Antara Chakraborty, Arnaud Gilbert Wilhelm Boehmann, Chai Shih Wei, Chang Siqi, Chen Jiaxin, Chen Luning, Chen Mingchuan, Chen Shuqin, Chen Yiwen, Theresa Chew Si Xing, Clara Lee Wa, Dai Xinyue, David Eldo, Ding Yuxiao, Dong Xinrui, Edwin Winarko Canggadibrata, Fidya Shabrina, Firdaus Iskandar Shah Barker, Gabriel Lim Hong Liang, Ge Chao, Ge Yuting, Gerardus Rino Pradipta Yosari, Ghina Natasha Binte Abdul Talip, Glady Fabiola Tanusaputra, Glenda Tan Yu Fang, Goh Han Wah, Hanan Mohammad Abed Sahnoud, Ho Yuan Zhe, James, Hoirull Amri Bin Tahiran, Hou Jiachi, Hu Wenxin, Hua Guangcan, Huang Yiting, Ibrahim Conrad Abdullah, Iskandar Bin Abdul Rahim, Jiang Yixuan, Joke Johanna Van De Kamp, Jonathan Cheng Ee Ban, Juan Ma Erica Caballero, K Durgadevi, Kang Chi Ann, Kevin Chen Xian An, Larnyoh Rudolf Tetteh, Laura Castello Sant, Lawson Lau Kang Seng, Lee Nagyung, Li Ang, Li Chilei, Li Kejing, Lim Jun Yu, Lim Zhao Xiong, Lin Yishan, Liu Jiaping, Liu Quanbin, Louis Loh Zi Liang, Long Yusi, Loo Bin Hui, Lu Yanzi, Lyu Weiyue, Ma Deyi, Mahendran S/O Kuppusamy, Mohd Soffian Bin Mohd Yusof, Muhammad Afiat Anang Luqmana, Naifa Rizani, Ng Leng Wei (Huang Long Wei), Ng Xiao Ying, Ni Ruisha, Nikki Yuk Moi Sen, Nurul Qomariyah, Oy Xayyasit, Pang Yan Wei, Pei Haozheng, Pham Thi Mai Ngan, Phan Xuan Dung, Pranav Ramnathpur Satyanath, Prem Singh Gill, Qi Haowei, Qi Xiaolei, Qian Jiaxin, Qian Yingying, Quah Say Jye, Quek Kai Xin, Selena Tran Thanh-Dung, Seo Jiayuan Jarvis, Shakera, Shawn Lim Sheau Chia, Shivangi Sharma, Sarah Soh Hui Ting, Solano Karen Gabin, Song Kewei, Suganiah Balu Devaraj, Sun Mengyi, Sun Tianhao, Sun Zecong, Syariful Alam, Syera Anggreini Buntara, Sylvia Koh Wan Ping, Tang Wenyuan, Tanusree Deb Nath, Tejada Melchor Masanda, Vu Ngoc Thuy Dan, Wahyu Wuhono Widhi Nugroho, Wan Hengyi, Wang Danni, Wang Han, Wang Xinjie, Wang Yuezhu, Wee Yuning, Wichuta Teeratanabodee, Wikki Soh, Wong King Sum, Wrightia Isabella Binte Abdul Wahid, Wu Wan Xin, Wu Wenbing, Wu Xueyi, Xing Jiaying, Xing Yue, Grace Yang Liwen, Yin Hang, Yiu Bin Hao, Yong Bee Bee / Kang Jinyang, Yong Kai Neng, Yudi Pranata, Zhang Xiunan, Zhang Xiyue, Zhang Zhihua, Zhao Luyao, Zhu Ruijue, Zhu Wenjing, Zou Ran

Other members of the class of AY2020/2021 who did not contribute their photos - names (in alphabetical order):

MSc Programme:

Anna Patricia Poa Chengliong, Cha Ee Sheng, Josephine Chai Xueying, Cheng Yaxin, Cher Sock Keng (Xu Xueqing), Chua Kun Yang, Han Wen Chou, Jorge Guillermo Garcia Manrique, Lasse Karner, Lee Ka Lei, Lee Yi Yan, Lim Kian Boon, Ma Jiming, Nguyen Nhu Tuan, Peng Xinyan, Rachel Cheng Ying Ying, Raymund Sandamurthi, Sean Paul Magness, See Hao Yuan, Sigit Suryo Nugroho, Sin Ying Siu (Salina), Tan Min-Wei, Teo Min Shuen, Wang Wenzhe, Yang Peidong, Yang Xiyu, Rochelle Yong, Zhao Chongjie, Zhao Wanyi, Zhao Yaxin

PhD Programme:

Daniel Balazs

Best Dissertation: "Indonesia's Humanitarian (b)order and the Multiple Movements of Rohingya Refugees"

In her award-winning dissertation titled "Indonesia's Humanitarian (b)order and the Multiple Movements of Rohingya Refugees", Sylvia Koh Wan Ping, MSc in Asian Studies (AY2020/2021), raises imperative questions on humanitarian praxis and the manner in which protection and care ought to be delivered.

Despite Indonesia's increased policing of its borders to counter irregular migration since 2000 and the claims that the country is increasingly a "cul de sac" rather than a point of transit, successive waves of Rohingya refugees have not only managed to arrive in Aceh by boat, but have also continually been able to leave their shelters and camps to seek relatives and employment opportunities in neighbouring Malaysia. Yet, this recurring phenomenon of Rohingya arrival and departure remains understudied in the context of Indonesia's humanitarian border.

This paper adopts a processual border approach to examine the ways in which the humanitarian border regime differentiates migrants and attempts to regulate their movements based on particular forms of humanitarian knowledge. It then maps how these dominant forms of humanitarian knowledge and categories are contested and problematised at different sites and scales, namely, in the regional province of Aceh and through the movements of Rohingya migrants which are shaped by their ethnic and gendered identities.

Read the full dissertation on NTU's digital repository: <https://dr.ntu.edu.sg/handle/10356/150395>



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Coordinator of PhD Programme



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Asst Prof Rafal Stepien
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Asst Prof Lee Su-Hyun
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Programme



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Programme



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Asst Prof Benjamin Ho
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Asst Prof Ong Wei Chong
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Ms Geanina Bujoreanu
Graduate Programmes Office
Manager

Annex A

RSIS Leadership and Staff

The people behind RSIS are scholars and researchers who delve into geopolitical developments and areas of their expertise, and teach at the Graduate School, and management support staff who give crucial support in corporate services. This Annex lists the RSIS leadership and staff. More details and updates are at www.rsis.edu.sg/about-rsis/staff-profiles.



Scan this QR Code for more details and updates.

www.rsis.edu.sg/about-rsis/staff-profiles

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Ms Samantha SOR Boon Ting
BA (Oklahoma City University)
*Administrative Executive, Centre of
Excellence for National Security*

Ms Sharifah Nazila binte SYED ABDUL
KADIR ALQUUDCY
Diploma in Accountancy
(Singapore Polytechnic)
Library Officer

Mr Frankie TAI Ah Yew
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
(Ngee Ann Polytechnic)
Senior IT Officer

Ms Tan Hui Chyi Anna
(From November 2021)
BSc (Hons) in Business and Management
Studies (University of Bradford)
*Senior Administrative Executive, Military
Studies Programme*

Ms Jenny TAN
BComm (University of Tasmania)
Assistant Human Resource Manager

Mr Mohd Jaffar bin TANDANG
*Administrative Officer, General
Administration*

Ms TEO Ke Wei
BSc (NTU)
Senior Outreach Executive

Ms Evelyn YEOH Mei Ching
*Personal Assistant, Distinguished
Fellow's Office*

Long Service Award (25 Years)



Prof Ang Cheng Guan
*Associate Dean
and Deputy
Director, IDSS*

Long Service Award (20 Years)



Mr Yang Razali Bin Kassim
Senior Fellow, RSIS

Long Service Award (15 Years)



Ms Caroline Chin Kai Fen
*Secretary to
Associate Dean
and Deputy
Director, IDSS*



Ms Evelyn Yeoh Mei Ching
*Personal Assistant
to Ambassador
Barry Desker*



Mr Cheong Kam Keong
*Senior Finance
Manager*



Asst Prof Ong Wei Chong
(Head, NSSP)

Long Service Award (10 Years)



Mr Iftekharul Bashar
*Associate
Research Fellow,
ICPVTR*



Mr Tsjeng Zhizhao Henrick
*Associate
Research Fellow,
RSIS*



Dr Mohamed Feisal Bin Mohamed Hassan
*Research
Fellow, ICPVTR*



Dr Chang Jun Yan
*Research Fellow
and Acting Head,
Military Studies
Programme, IDSS*



Ms Irene Chan
*Associate
Research Fellow,
China Programme,
IDSS*



Asst Prof Hoo Tiang Boon
*Coordinator,
China
Programme, IDSS*



Mr Imran Fariz
*Senior IT
Executive*

Staff awarded the long service award on RSIS Day, 27 July 2021

Annex B

RSIS Publications

RSIS produces policy-relevant research for policymakers, thought-leaders, and practitioners, and shares analyses and perspectives on geopolitical, security, and related issues. This Annex gives a sampling of the RSIS publications produced during the year. The full listing is at www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/rsis-publications/rsis-publications-for-the-year.



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www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/rsis-publications/rsis-publications-for-the-year

JOURNALS

COVID-19 and Religious Organisations: Constitutional Environment and Organisational Choices

- Jaclyn L. Neo and Shazny Ramlan in *Interreligious Relations (IRR)*, Issue 24, 1 June 2021

The Construction of Nonreligious Identities among Chinese Millennials in Singapore: A Qualitative Study

- Oliver Zikai Lim in *Interreligious Relations (IRR)*, Issue 23, 4 May 2021

Indian Buddhist and Continental Christian Critiques of Ontology: An Exercise in Interreligious Philosophical Dialogue

- Rafal K. Stepień in *Interreligious Relations (IRR)*, Issue 22, 4 January 2021

RSIS POLICY REPORTS

Gender, Security and Digital Space: Issues, Policies, and the Way Forward

- Gulizar Hacıyakupoglu and Yasmine Wong, December 2021

Community Gardens: A "Fourth Basket" in Singapore's Food Story?

- Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros and Paul Teng, 24 August 2021

Disaster Governance in the Asia-Pacific: Future Pathways for South and Southeast Asia

- Alistair D. B. Cook and Christopher Chen, 16 August 2021

CENS Expert Survey on Extremism Report 2: Current Priorities in Counter-terrorism and Prevention

- Cameron Sumpter, 28 July 2021

Japan-India Strategic Partnership: An Indigenous Axis in the Indo-Pacific

- Tan Ming Hui and Nazia Hussain, 22 July 2021

CENS Expert Survey on Extremism Report: Current and Emerging Threats

- Joseph Franco, 8 July 2021

Disasters in COVID-19: Implications for Nexus Governance

- Alistair D. B. Cook and S. Nanthini, 1 July 2021

The Belt and Road Initiative: Vehicle for China's Humanitarian Action?

- Lina Gong, 28 June 2021

Successful Cyber-Risk Management of Operational Technology and Industrial Control Systems: Technical and Policy Recommendations

- Adam Palmer, Michael Rothschild, and Benjamin Ang, 4 February 2021

Minilateralism for Multilateralism in the Post-COVID Age

- Amalina Anuar and Nazia Hussain, 19 January 2021

RSIS WORKING PAPERS

Malaysia Policies and Interests in the South China Sea

- Johan Saravanamuttu, 7 October 2021

Late Malaysian Politics: From Single Party Dominance to Multi Party Mayhem

- William Case, 2 August 2021

Sabah's Unrelenting Exclusionary and Inclusionary Politics

- Vilashini Somiah and Jose Ricardo Sto. Domingo, 5 May 2021

Measures of Economic Vulnerability & Inter-dependency in the Global Economy

- Jikon Lai and Amalina Anuar, 20 January 2021

COMMENTARIES

Post-Taliban Takeover: How the Global Jihadist Terror Threat May Evolve

- Raffaello Pantucci and Abdul Basit in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 13, Issue 4, 13 September 2021

More details and updates are at www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/rsis-publications/rsis-publications-for-the-year

Rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan: Security Implications for Bangladesh

- Iftekharul Bashar in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 14, Issue 4, 13 September 2021

Framing Climate Change: The Need for a Human Security Perspective

- S. Nanthini in *NTS Insight*, 10 September 2021

How to Retaliate against a "Bully": China's Weaponisation of Law in the US-China Rivalry

- Gong Xue in *IDSS Paper*, 6 September 2021

Rebuilding Regional Economies: Role of Female Labour

- Tamara Nair and Phidel Marion G. Vineles in *RSIS Commentary*, 30 August 2021

The New Space Age: Impact on Strategic Policy

- Tan Teck Boon in *RSIS Commentary*, 26 August 2021

Malaysia's New Government: Same But Different

- Ariel Tan in *IDSS Paper*, 24 August 2021

German Warship in Asia: Berlin's Indo-Pacific Strategy?

- Frederick Kliem in *RSIS Commentary*, 24 August 2021

Creating Synergies between the ADMM and Sub-regional Arrangements

- Sarah Teo and Tan Wei in *IDSS Paper*, 24 August 2021

Price of Political Will: The Fall of Two Regimes

- Barry Desker in *RSIS Commentary*, 20 August 2021

America, ASEAN and the Question of ASEAN's Centrality

- Tan See Seng in *IDSS Paper*, 20 August 2021

Buddhist Nationalism in Asia: What It Means for Europe

- Rafal Stepień in *RSIS Commentary*, 6 August 2021

A Rights-Based Approach to Governing Online Freelance Labour: Towards Decent Work in Digital Labour Platforms

- Julius Cesar Imperial Trajano in *NTS Insight*, 4 August 2021

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- Bernard Loo in *RSIS Commentary*, 3 August 2021

Vaccine Resilience: Next Stage in ASEAN's War?

- Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros in *RSIS Commentary*, 2 August 2021

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- Alan Chong in *RSIS Commentary*, 22 July 2021

Japan's Responses to China's Rise: Soft Balancing in Southeast Asia

- Bhubhindar Singh in *Asian Security*, 19 July 2021

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- Pradumna B. Rana in *RSIS Commentary*, 14 July 2021

Indonesia's New Lockdown: Jokowi's Legacy?

- Alexander R. Arifianto in *RSIS Commentary*, 13 July 2021

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- Vidia Arianti in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 13, Issue 3, 2 July 2021

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- Norman Vasu in *RSIS Commentary*, 1 July 2021

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- Mely Caballero-Anthony and Julius Cesar Imperial Trajano in *RSIS Commentary*, 25 June 2021

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- Benjamin Ho, *RSIS Commentary*, 15 June 2021

History in Digital Age: Why Military Professionals Need it

- Ong Wei Chong in *RSIS Commentary*, 25 May 2021

Putin's State-of-the-Union Address 2021: Old Wine in a New Bottle?

- Chris Cheang in *RSIS Commentary*, 11 May 2021

The British are Coming. But Can they Sustain it?

- Geoffrey Till in *RSIS Commentary*, 5 May 2021

Democracy & Digital Governance: Help or Hindrance?

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Malaysian Chinese Federal Representation: Limited Prospects?

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- Choo Ruizhi in *RSIS Commentary*, 29 March 2021

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Pandemic's Effect on Counter-Terrorism
- Kalicharan Veera Singam in *RSIS Commentary*, 16 March 2021

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- Sinderpal Singh in *RSIS Commentary*, 25 February 2021

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- Paul Hedges in *RSIS Commentary*, 11 February 2021

Facial Recognition: More Peril than Promise?
- Manoj Harjani in *RSIS Commentary*, 10 February 2021

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- Teo Yi-Ling and Manoj Harjani in *RSIS Commentary*, 2 February 2021

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Jasminder Singh
- Muhammad Haziq Bin Jani in *RSIS Commentary*, 8 January 2021

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- Shashi Jayakumar in *RSIS Commentary*, 4 January 2021

The Islamic State (IS): Maintaining Resilience in a Post-Caliphate, Pandemic Environment
- Nur Aziemah Azman in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 13, Issue 1, 4 January 2021

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- Unaesah Rahmah in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 13, Issue 1, 4 January 2021

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- Manoj Harjani, Dymples Leong, and Teo Yi-Ling in *RSIS Commentary*, 24 November 2020

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- Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/research/nts-centre/centre-resourcescnts/cnts-rsis-publications/bulletins-and-newsletters

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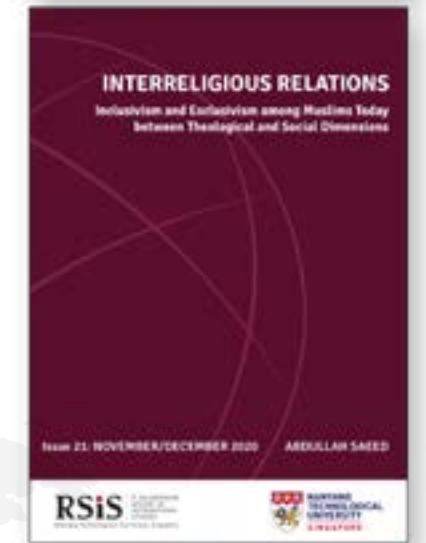
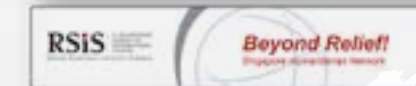
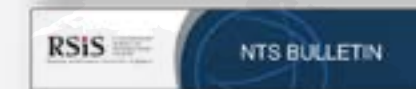
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NTS Insight
- Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/rsis-publications/nts-insight

Think Tank: News from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
- RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/think-tank

COMMEMORATIVE/EVENT REPORTS

Commemorative/Event Reports
- RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/rsis-publications/event-reports/



Annex C

Research Articles in Journals and Other External Publications

RSIS scholars continue to publish their research in books and other publications. RSIS researchers' analyses and perspectives are also published in top-tier academic journals and leading university presses, and other publications. This Annex lists some of the articles published during the year. The full listing is at www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/staff-publications/external-publications-for-the-year. (For joint articles, names of non-RSIS authors are italicised.)



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BOOKS

RSIS Commentary: The Series Jokowi's Second Term: Emerging Issues

- Yang Razali Kassim (Ed.). Singapore: World Scientific: December 2021

Strategy and Defence Policy for Small States: Problems and Prospects

- Bernard Loo. Singapore: World Scientific: November 2021

Lion City Narratives: Singapore Through Western Eyes

- Victor R Savage. Singapore: World Scientific: October 2021

Research Handbook on the Belt and Road Initiative

- Joseph Liow Chin Yong, Hong Liu, and Xue Gong (Eds.). Edward Elgar Publishing, October 2021

A History of the People's Action Party, 1985-2021

- Shashi Jayakumar. Singapore: NUS Press, October 2021

Underwriting the Alliance

- John Bradford and Michael Bosack (Eds.). Japan: Yokosuka Council on Asia-Pacific Studies: September 2021

The Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation

- Ang Cheng Guan. Routledge, September 2021

Communist Party of Malaya: A Comprehensive Bibliography (Online Resource Guide)

- Ong Wei Chong (Ed.). Singapore: National Library Board, September 2021

The Oxford Handbook of Peaceful Change in International Relations

- T. V. Paul, Deborah Welch Larson, Harold A. Trinkunas, Anders Wivel, and Ralf Emmers (Eds.). Oxford University Press, August 2021

At History's Hinge: The Swinging Gates of American and Global Politics

- Adam Garfinkle. Singapore: World Scientific, July 2021

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- Joel Ng. UK: Cambridge University Press, July 2021

The European Union's Security Relations with Asian Partners

- Tan See Seng, Thomas Christiansen, and Emil Kirchner (Eds.). Europe: Palgrave Macmillan, May 2021

1819 & Before: Singapore's Pasts

- Kwa Chong Guan (Ed.). Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, April 2021

China's Political Worldview and Chinese Exceptionalism: International Order and Global Leadership

- Benjamin Ho. Netherlands: Amsterdam University Press, April 2021

Non-Traditional Security in the Asia-Pacific: A Decade of Perspectives

- Alistair D. B. Cook and Tamara Nair (Eds.). Singapore: World Scientific, April 2021

Countering Islamic State Ideology: Voices of Singapore Religious Scholars

- Muhammad Haniff Hassan and Rohan Gunaratna (Eds.). Singapore: PERGAS, April 2021

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Humanitarianism in the Asia-Pacific: Engaging the Debate in Policy and Practice
- Alistair D. B. Cook and Lina Gong (Eds.). Singapore: Springer, April 2021

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- Rohan Gunaratna and Mohd Mizan Aslam (Eds.). Routledge, March 2021

Religious Hatred: Prejudice, Islamophobia and Antisemitism in Global Context
- Paul Hedges. UK: Bloomsbury Publishing, March 2021

Understanding Religion: Theories and Methods for Studying Religiously Diverse Societies
- Paul Hedges. US: University of California Press, February 2021

The Elusive Tipping Point: China-India Ties for a New Order
- P. S. Suryanarayana. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing, February 2021

Racial Difference and the Colonial Wars of 19th Century Southeast Asia
- Farish A. Noor and Peter-Brian Ramsay Carey (Eds.). Amsterdam University Press, January 2021

POLICY-RELEVANT ARTICLES GIVEN RSIS AWARD¹

We Might Be Done With Jihadis But They Are Not Done With Us
- Raffaello Pantucci in *Financial Times*, 11 July 2021

Strategic Ambiguity and the Trumpian Approach to China-Taiwan Relations
- Hoo Tiang Boon and Hannah Sworn in *International Affairs*, Vol. 96, No. 6, Chatham House, 26 September 2020

ARTICLES

Indonesia's Foreign and Maritime Policies: Domestic and External Determinants
- Leonard C. Sebastian and Jonathan Chen in *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*, Vol. 8, Issue 3, December 2021

Xi-Biden summit: Finding the contours of responsible competition
- Hoo Tiang Boon in *The Straits Times*, 18 November 2021

COP26: Much Achieved, Huge Opportunities Missed
- Margareth Sembiring in *Council of Councils*, 17 November 2021

ASEAN's Economic Security and Regional Economic Cooperation: Past, Present, and Future
- Lee Su-Hyun in *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, 26 October 2021

Blind Spots in America's "Tech War" with China
- Joseph Chinyong Liow in *The Straits Times*, 23 October 2021

Commentary: Shocking Risks and Little Control - The Scary Things About Facebook's Outage
- Benjamin Ang in *Channel NewsAsia Online*, 12 October 2021

Biden's Underwhelming Engagement with Southeast Asia
- Tan See Seng in *East Asia Forum*, 2 October 2021

Belt and Road Initiative in Myanmar: Adapting to the Slippery Road 190
- Gong Xue in Joseph Liow Chin Yong, Hong Liu, and Xue Gong, (Eds.), *Research Handbook on the Belt and Road Initiative*, Edward Elgar Publishing, October 2021

Myanmar's Extreme Buddhist Nationalists
- Amresh Lavan Gunasingham in *The Interpreter*, 21 September 2021

US Engagement in Southeast Asia: How Much Will Be Enough?
- Chang Jun Yan in *The Interpreter*, 15 September 2021

What the Taliban Takeover in Afghanistan Means for IS Supporters in Indonesia
- V. Arianti and Unaesah Rahmah in *The Diplomat*, 15 September 2021

Taliban Victory Energises the US Far Right and Enrages the Indian One
- Kalicharan Veera Singam in *The Royal United Services Institute*, 10 September 2021

Coming to Terms with Smart Contracts Part 2 - Encoding Certainty and Enforceability in Contracts "Ex Machina"
- Teo Yi-Ling in *SAL Practitioner*, [2021] SAL Prac 26, 8 September 2021

¹ RSIS has an award scheme since January 2012 to encourage RSIS staff to publish in policy-oriented international journals and publications that are read by global political, business and economic leaders. Initiated and funded by Dr Friedrich Wu, Adjunct Associate Professor with the Centre for Multilateralism Studies at RSIS, the award scheme is also supported by contributions from other RSIS members Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, Amb Barry Desker, Distinguished Fellow, and Prof Rajesh Basrur, Visiting Professor with the South Asia Programme, over the years.

Grand Strategy and Military Power
- Pascal Vennesson in *Thierry Balzacq and Ron Krebs (Eds.), Oxford Handbook of Grand Strategy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 339-355, 1 September 2021

Humanitarian Diplomacy in ASEAN
- Alistair D. B. Cook in *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, Vol. 6, No. 3, September 2021

What North Korea Gains from Participating in the ASEAN Regional Forum
- Shawn Ho and Seksan Anantasirikiat in *NK News*, 27 August 2021

Tracing the Fate of Central Asian Fighters in Syria: Remainers, Repatriates, Returnees, and Relocators
- Nodirbek Soliev in *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 27 August 2021

The Second Nagorno-Karabakh war: Takeaways for Singapore's Ground-based Air Defense
- Ben Ho Wan Beng in *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, Vol. 4, No. 5, pp. 24-39, 25 August 2021

Towards Shared Economic Recovery: ASEAN's Role in Driving Post-COVID Regional Integration
- Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit in *Indo-Pacific Analysis Briefs 2021*, Vol. 26. Perth USAsia Centre, Australia, 23 August 2021

US Must be Troubled by Stronger Russia-China Ties
- Chris Cheang in *Channel NewsAsia Online*, 22 August 2021

A Taliban Takeover Will Strengthen Pakistani Jihadis
- Abdul Basit in *Foreign Policy*, 18 August 2021

Why North Korea won't Abandon its Nuclear Weapons Without a Regime Change
- Nah Liang Tuang in *NK Pro*, 17 August 2021

The Rise of Saifullah: Islamic State's New Point Man for Southeast Asia?
- Jasvinder Singh and Rueben Ananthan Santhana Dass in *The Diplomat*, 16 August 2021

Rethinking What We Owe Each Other
- Yasmine Wong and Jane Loo in *Singapore Policy Journal*, 13 August 2021

Singapur 2020: Tiempos difíciles [Singapore: Hard Times]
- Norman Vasu in *Anuario Asia Pacifico*, Vol. 20, pp. 1-24, 12 August 2021

The Pro-Al Qaeda Indonesian Connection with HTS in Syria: Security Implications
- Vidia Arianti and Nodirbek Soliev in *Middle East Institute*, 10 August 2021

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- Bhubhindar Singh, in T. V. Paul, D. W. Larson, H. Trinkunas, A. Wivel, and R. Emmers (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook on Peaceful Change in International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, August 2021

The Sixth RMA Wave: Disruption in Military Affairs
- Michael Raska in *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 4, pp. 456-479, August 2021

Why China Will Not Cooperate with the West: The Pandemic Made Things Worse
- Benjamin Ho in *National Interest*, 25 July 2021

Maritime Security Hubs Need to Step Up Cooperation
- Jane Chan and John Bradford in *The Straits Times*, 14 July 2021

We Might Be Done with Jihadis But They Are Not Done With Us
- Raffaello Pantucci in *Financial Times*, 11 July 2021

How Indonesia's EV Plans will Shape its Relations with the US and China
- Jefferson Ng and Dedi Dinarto in *South China Morning Post*, 7 July 2021

Singapore is Changing Faster than You Think
- Han Fook Kwang in *The Straits Times*, 4 July 2021

ASEAN's Involvement in the South China Sea Disputes: The Economics-Security Conundrum
- Li Mingjiang and Lee Ying Hui in *Gordon Houlden (Eds.) Security, Strategy, and Military Dynamics in the South China Sea*, Bristol University Press, July 2021

The Interactions of International Relations: Racism, Colonialism, Producer-Centred-Research
- Datta-Ray DK in *All Azimuth*, Vol. 10, No. 2, pp. 231-253, 24 June 2021

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- Kumar Ramakrishna, Yusuf Roque Santos Morales, and Sheryl Renomeron-Morales in *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 23 June 2021

Chinese Plane Incident – Malaysia Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place
- Nawaljeet Singh Rayar in *TODAY*, 14 June 2021

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- Adrian Ang U-Jin and Shawn Ho in *NK News*, 12 June 2021

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- Olli Pekka Suorsa and Adrian Ang U-Jin in *The Diplomat*, 2 June 2021

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- Paul Hedges in *CrossCurrents*, Vol. 71, No. 2, pp. 156-74, 2 June 2021

Trust in the Process: Renewable Energy Governance in Malaysia and Indonesia
- Amalina Anuar and Aninda Dewayanti in *Politics and Policy*, Vol. 49, No. 3, pp. 740-770, June 2021

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- Alan Chong in *Global Change, Peace & Security*, Vol. 33, No. 2, pp. 177-199, 2 June 2021

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- Muhammad Haniff Hassan and Walid Jumblat Abdullah in *Journal of Islam and Civilisational Renewal*, Vol. 12, No. 1, June 2021

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- Manoj Harjani in *The Interpreter*, 31 May 2021

Deradicalisation during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Need for Adaptation to Online-Based Counselling Programmes in Southeast Asia?
- Ahmad Helmi bin Mohamad Hasbi in *ASEAN-Australia Review 2020, ASEAN-Australia Strategic Youth Partnership (AASYP)*, 29 May 2021

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- Yang Razali Kassim in *Geopolitical Intelligence Services*, 26 May 2021

Making Sense of Bitcoin's Extreme Volatility
- Tan Teck Boon in *Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy*, 24 May 2021

ASEAN's Myanmar Dilemma
- Barry Desker in *East Asia Forum*, Australian National University, 23 May 2021

Securitization, Surveillance and "De-extremization" in Xinjiang
- Stefanie Kam Li Yee and Michael Clarke in *International Affairs*, Vol. 97, No. 3, pp. 625-642, 10 May 2021

Interreligious Relations with No Self: A Mystical Path to Omniscience?
- Rafal Stepien in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-21, 7 May 2021

The Great Churning: Modi's Transformation of the Indian Military
- Anit Mukherjee in *War on the Rocks*, 5 May 2021

Japan's Maritime Security Leadership in the Western Pacific
- John Bradford in *Asia Policy*, 28 April 2021

For Southeast Asian Nations, Summit a Good Start but Holistic Approach Needed
- Margareth Sembiring in *Global Memo, Council of Councils*, 28 April 2021

From Ideological to Political Sectarianism: Nahdlatul Ulama, Muhammadiyah, and the State in Indonesia
- Alexander R. Arifianto in *Religion, State, and Society*, Vol. 49, No. 2, pp. 126-141, 26 April 2021

Can ASEAN Offer a Way Out of the US-China Choice?
- Joel Ng in *East Asia Forum*, 9 April 2021

ASEAN and the EU Amidst COVID-19: Overcoming the Self-fulfilling Prophecy of Realism
- Frederick Kliem in *Asia Europe Journal*, Vol. 16, No. 2, 5 April 2021

The People's Liberation Army in Its Tenth Decade: Assessing "Below the Neck" Reforms in China's Military Modernization
- James Char in *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 2, pp. 141-148, April 2021

Re-imagining the Global Humanitarian System: Emerging Dynamics in the Asia-Pacific
- Mely Caballero-Anthony, Alistair D. B. Cook, and Christopher Chen in *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, Vol. 56, 1 April 2021

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- Rueben Ananthan Santhana Dass in *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism* 16, No. 2, pp. 173-191, 1 April 2021

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- Muhammad Saiful Alam Shah Bin Sudiman in Muhammad Haniff Hassan and Rohan Gunaratna (Eds.), *Countering Islamic State Ideology: Voices of Singapore Religious Scholars*, Singapore: PERGAS, pp. 136-138, April 2021

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- Tan Ming Hui in *TODAY*, 31 March 2021

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- Joseph Franco in *The Asia Foundation Briefing Paper*, 30 March 2021

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- Rohan Gunaratna and Mohd Mizan Aslam (Eds.) in *Civil Society Organizations Against Terrorism - Case Studies from Asia*, London: Routledge, pp. 49, 26 March 2021

Singapore's "Deradicalisation" Model: Revolution - or Evolution?
- Shashi Jayakumar in *Journal for Deradicalization*, Issue 26, pp. 227-246, 25 March 2021

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- Tiola and Keoni Marzuki in Alistair Cook and Lina Gong (Eds.), *Humanitarianism in the Asia-Pacific: Engaging the Debate in Policy and Practice*, Singapore: Springer, 2021, pp. 67-72, 13 March 2021

Will Myanmar's Coup help China Influence ASEAN?
- Henrick Tsjeng in *East Asia Forum*, 10 March 2021

Military Dominance in Pakistan and China-Pakistan Relations
- Hoo Tiang Boon and Glenn K. H. Ong in *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 75, No. 1, pp. 80-102, 7 March 2021

Contemporary Salafism in Singapore
- Muhammad Haziq Bin Jani and Syed Huzaifah Bin Othman Alkaff in *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, Vol. 41, No. 1, 2021. pp. 157-178, 4 March 2021

Agriculture and Food Security in Asia
- Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros and Paul Teng in Juan M. Pulhin, Makoto Inoue and Rajib Shaw (Eds.), *Climate Change, Disaster Risks, and Human Security, Disaster Risk Reduction Book Series*, Singapore: Springer, pp. 137-168, March 2021

Delineation and Discretion: The Drawing of Electoral Boundaries in Singapore
- Kevin YL Tan and Terence Lee (eds) in *Voting in a Time of Change: Singapore's 2020 General Election*, Ethos Books, pp. 87-120, March 2021

Abrogation and the Verse of the Sword: Countering Extremists' Justification for Violence
- Mahfuh Bin Haji Halimi and Rohan Gunaratna (Eds.) in *Countering Islamic State Ideology: Voices of Singapore Religious Scholars*, March 2021

The Decentralizing International Trade Architecture: Perspectives from and Role of Asia
- Pradumna B. Rana, W.M. Chia, and Ji Xianbai in *Singapore Economic Review*, Vol. 66, No. 1, pp. 59-81, March 2021

Understanding the tragedy of the commons in the South China Sea fisheries: The prisoner's dilemma model revisited
- Zhang Hongzhou in *Marine Policy*, Vol. 125, pp 1-11, March 2021

Amb. Ong Keng Yong on the Role of ASEAN
- Ong Keng Yong, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, 26 February 2021

Sino-Indian Frontier Dilemma: A Potential Stalemate?
- Nazia Hussain in *China-India Brief, Centre on Asia and Globalisation*, 11 February 2021

The U.S. Navy, China and Indo-Pacific: A Reset After Trump?
- Geoffrey Till in *Naval Review*, Spring 2021

Smart Homes: Where Rogue AI and Robots could Impair Security
- Muhammad Faizal Bin Abdul Rahman in Majeed Khader, Whistine Xiau Ting Chai, and Loo Seng Neo (Eds.), *Introduction to Cyber Forensic Psychology: Understanding the Mind of the Cyber Deviant Perpetrators*, Singapore: World Scientific Publishing, pp. 309-331, February 2021

India and Japan: Nested Strategic Partnerships
- Rajesh Basrur and Sumitha Narayanan Kutty in *International Politics*, February 2021

Lab-in-Field Experiments for the Reintegration of Violent Extremists: The Promise of Prosocial Evaluation
- Cameron Sumpter in *The RESOLVE Network*, Washington, D.C., 28 January 2021

Re-evaluating the Military's Role in Disaster Response
- S. Nanthini in *The Interpreter*, 27 January 2021

Will Singapore 2030 be Less or More Cohesive?
- Mohammad Alami Musa in *The Straits Times*, 21 January 2021

Understanding Malaysia's High-wire Act on the Abraham Accords and the Israel-Palestine Issue
- Ariel Tan in *TODAY*, 19 January 2021

Grappling with Terror: How France can Tackle Radicalisation
- Ahmad Saiful Rijal in *The Karyawan*, 15 January 2021

Toward a Differentiation-Based Framework for Middle Power Behavior
- Sarah Teo in *International Theory*, 13 January 2021

The Role of Social Media During a Pandemic
- Dymples Leong, Majeed Khader, Denise Dillon, Xingyu Ken Chen, Loo Seng Neo, and Jeffery Chin in *How to Prepare for the Next Pandemic*, Singapore: World Scientific Publishing, pp. 129-142, 11 January 2021

The Importance of Context for Military History and Education
- Ian Li Huiyuan in *POINTER: Journal of the Singapore Armed Forces*, Vol. 46, No. 2, pp. 54-62, 11 Jan 2021

China and Southeast Asia in the 2000s: Tension Management in the Maritime Space
- Zha Daojiong and Lina Gong in *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 8 January 2021

Vietnam and the Search for Security Leadership in ASEAN
- Ralf Emmers and Huong Le Thu in *Asian Security*, Vol. 17, No.1, pp. 64-78, 2021

Annex D

RSIS Endowed Professorships and IDSS Anniversary Lectures

This Annex lists the endowed professorship lectures as well as the IDSS 25th Anniversary lectures and debate. The full listing is also available at www.rsis.edu.sg/events.



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www.rsis.edu.sg/events

Commemorative APPSMO-IDSS Lecture by Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Emeritus Professor of War Studies, King's College, London, on "Strategy and Command in an Age of Extreme Uncertainty", 6 October 2021

The Ngee Ann Kongsi-RSIS Distinguished Virtual Public Lecture by Professor Rana Mitter, Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, on "Chinese Nationalism: How Its Past is Shaping Its Future", 14 September 2021

The S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture by Dr Parag Khanna, Founder and Managing Partner, FutureMap, on "Move: The Forces Uprooting Us", 25 August 2021

IDSS 25th Anniversary Debate by Professor Pascal Vennesson, Senior Fellow and head of Research, RSIS; and Professor of Political Science, University Panthéon-Assas, Paris II; and

Professor Heng Yee Kuang, Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo, on "Security Studies Versus Strategic Studies: Relevance in the 21st Century", 20 August 2021

The Ngee Ann Kongsi-RSIS Distinguished Virtual Public Lecture by Mr Stephen Roach, Senior Fellow, Jackson Institute of Global Affairs, and Senior Lecturer, School of Management, Yale University, USA, and Former Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, on "The US-China Relationship: From Conflict to Resolution", 15 July 2021

IDSS 25th Anniversary Lecture by Professor Eliot Cohen, Robert E. Osgood Professor, and Dean, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, on "Shakespeare for Strategists", 6 May 2021



Annex E

RSIS Conferences, Workshops, Seminars, and Roundtables, including Online/Virtual Events

RSIS brought together scholars, researchers, policymakers and practitioners at events organised throughout the year on key developments in the region and the world. With the disruption of the COVID-19 global pandemic and measures taken, some RSIS events moved online. This Annex lists some of the events held during the year. The full list and details are at www.rsis.edu.sg/events.



Scan this QR Code for the full list and details.
www.rsis.edu.sg/events

December

Institute for Defense International Relations (IDIR)-IDSS Roundtable on "Security Dynamics at Asia-Pacific: New Developments and Anticipations", 7 December 2021

November

RSIS Book Launch Webinar of "Lion City Narratives: Singapore through Western Eyes" by Dr Victor R Savage, 30 November 2021

SRP Webinar on Buddhist Nationalisms in Southeast Asia on "Implications for Plural Societies", 24 November 2021

Launch of IDSS Book and RSIS Commemorative Tree-Planting Event, 23 November 2021

IPS-RSIS Conference on Identity, organised by Institute of Policy Studies and RSIS, 23 November 2021

RSIS Webinar Series on "Economic Multilateralism for Post-COVID-19 Recovery":

- Economic Resilience and Security in Southeast Asia and ASEAN, organised by CMS, 23 November 2021
- The Future of Multilateralism and the Role of Plurilaterals, organised by CMS, 16 November 2021
- Geopolitical Dynamics and its Implications for Post-COVID Economic Recovery, organised by CMS, 9 November 2021

RSIS Workshop on "Interests, Initiatives and Influence in the Mekong Sub-region", organised by Regional Security Architecture Programme, IDSS, 18 November 2021

RSIS Book Launch Webinar of "The Oxford Handbook of Peaceful Change in International Relations" by T. V. Paul, Deborah Welch Larson, Harold A. Trinkunas, Anders Wivel, and Ralf Emmers, 12 November 2021

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)-RSIS Policy

Research Network on Contemporary Southeast Asia (PRN-SEA) Webinar on "Indo-Pacific Cooperation: Way Forward for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific", 10 November 2021

2021 CENS Countering Extremism Workshop:

- Panel 3: After Kabul: The Return of the Taliban and Violent Extremism, 10 November 2021
- Panel 2: Current Research on the Psychology of Radicalisation: Commonality Across Ideologies, 9 November 2021
- Panel 1: Violent Extremism in Indonesia: Updates and Evolution, 8 November 2021

October

RSIS-Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS) Workshop on "ASEAN Resilience and European Strategic Autonomy: Converging Operational Concepts?", 28 October 2021

3rd RSIS-Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) Dialogue on "Tackling the Nexus Between Climate Change and Security - Singapore and German Perspectives", 27 October 2021

RSIS Virtual Roundtable on "Climate Security in the Indo-Pacific: Strategic Implications for Defence and Foreign Affairs", organised by NTS Centre, 25 October 2021

SRP-Partners Interreligious Dialogue Skills Workshop on "Religion and the Common Good", 23 Oct 2021

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)-RSIS Policy Research Network on Contemporary Southeast Asia (PRN-SEA) Webinar on "The Way Forward for the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) - Partnership between Japan and ASEAN to Promote an Inclusive AOIP", 22 October 2021

RSIS Panel Webinar on "The Europeans in the Indo-Pacific: Jointly or National, and What Does Asia Think?", organised by Regional Security Architecture Programme, IDSS, 19 October 2021

The full list and details are at www.rsis.edu.sg/events

RSIS- China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) Roundtable, 13 October 2021

RSIS-Center for China and Globalization (CCG)-RAND Corporation on “Is Cooperative Competition Possible?”, 12 October 2021

RSIS-Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Joint Workshop on “Hatta and Indonesia’s Independent and Active Foreign Policy: Retrospect and Prospect”, 12 October 2021

ICPVTR Webinar Series on Terrorism Landscape in Southeast Asia by Mr Savic Ali, Mr Akil Yunus, and Mdm Amina Rasul-Bernardo, on “Countering Online Radicalisation in Southeast Asia”, 11 Oct 2021

RSIS Virtual In-Country Workshop on “International Trade Issues (Philippines)”, organised by CMS, 6-8 October 2021

IDSS 25th Anniversary Commemorative Lecture and APPSMO 2021 Distinguished Lecture by Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Emeritus Professor of War Studies, King’s College London, United Kingdom, on “Strategy and Command in an Age of Extreme Uncertainty”, 6 October 2021

The 22nd Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO 2021) on “The Evolving Security Environment in the Asia-Pacific and its Challenges”, organised by IDSS, 5-8 October 2021

RSIS-Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research (CIER) Virtual Workshop on “Indo-Pacific Geopolitics and Political Economy”, organised by CMS and CIER, 1 October 2021

September

RSIS-Embassy of Japan Panel Webinar on “International Law and Rule of Law Approach in the Indo-Pacific Region”, organised by Embassy of Japan; and Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, 28 September 2021

Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) Nuclear Energy Experts Group (NEEG), 28-29 September 2021

CENS Webinar “Making Ransomware Pay: Strategies for Taking Back Control”, 23 September 2021

RSIS Roundtable on “Defining Maritime Security: Regional Divergence and Commonalities”, organised by Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, 21 September 2021

RSIS Webinar on “Non-Traditional Security Concerns in the New Normal”:

- “Part 2”, organised by NTS Centre, 20 September 2021
- “Part 1”, organised by NTS Centre, 1 June 2021

SRP Panel Webinar on Understanding Christian Far-Right Extremism on “Politics, Theologies, Conspiracies”, 16 September 2021

RSIS-IFS Panel Webinar on “Journal of Strategic Studies Special Issue on Defence Innovation and the 4th Industrial Revolution”, organised by Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies (IFS), Norwegian Defence University College; and Military Transformations Programme, IDSS, 16 September 2021

The Ngee Ann Kongsi-RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture by Professor Rana Mitter, Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, University of Oxford, on “Chinese Nationalism: How Its Past is Shaping Its Future”, 14 September 2021

RSIS Panel Webinar on “Trump, Biden, and the Fate of America’s Alliances”, 3 September 2021

ICPVTR Webinar by Ambassador Omar Samad, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, The Atlantic Council South Asia Center, Washington D.C., on “What next for Afghanistan and the War on Terror?”, 3 September 2021

ICPVTR Webinar Series on Terrorism Landscape in Southeast Asia by Dr. Rommel C. Banlaoi and Prof. Dato Yusuf Roque Santos Morales, on “Four Years After Marawi: Threat and Societal Response in the Philippines”, 2 September 2021

August

RRSIS Panel Webinar on “Malaysia’s Policy Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Drivers, Players, Consequences”, organised by Malaysia Programme, IDSS, 31 August 2021

The S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture by Dr Parag Khanna, Founder and Managing Partner, FutureMap, on “Move: The Forces Uprooting Us”, 25 August 2021

ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM) 2021 on “Advancing Disaster Management: Into a Future of Possibilities”, 24-26 August 2021

NSSP Webinar by Professor Chiyuki Aoi, Professor of International Security, Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP), University of Tokyo, on “Japan’s Views on Hybrid Threats”, 20 August 2021

IDSS 25th Anniversary Debate by Professor Pascal Vennesson, Senior Fellow and head of Research, RSIS; and Professor of Political Science, University Panthéon-Assas, Paris II; and Professor Heng Yee Kuang, Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo, on “Security Studies Versus Strategic Studies: Relevance in the 21st Century”, 20 August 2021

SRP Webinar Series on Regional Trends in Inter-Religious Relations, on “Inter-Faith Conflict & Peace”, 19 August 2021

RSIS World Humanitarian Day 2021 Webinar on “Responses to Crises during the Pandemic: Challenges and New Modalities”, organised by NTS Centre, 19 August 2021

ICPVTR Webinar on Eye of the Storm – Conversation Series:

- By Mr Prashant Nayak, Vice President, Global Security Asia Pacific & Middle East at The Walt Disney Company, on “Show Me the World: Horizon Scanning for Security Threats and Lessons from the Commercial Sector”, 19 August 2021
- By Mr Eddie How Yan Chin, Global Assurance Lead for Intelligence, Security & Crisis, British Petroleum, on “Troubled Waters: Security Lessons from a Singaporean Security Risks Practitioner Working in A Hostile Environment”, 12 August 2021
- By Mr Lorand Bodo, Co-founder of OSINTCurious, on “Tale of the Scuba Diving Jihadist: Emerging Tactics by Online Extremists and What You Can Do with OSINT”, 5 August 2021

ICPVTR Webinar by Lieutenant General H. R. McMaster, 26th Assistant to the President of the United States of America for National Security Affairs; Former Commissioned Officer in the United States Army, on “The End of the War on Terror”, 11 August 2021

RSIS Book Launch Webinar of “China’s Political Worldview and Chinese Exceptionalism: International Order and Global Leadership” by Assistant Professor Benjamin Ho, 6 August 2021

RSIS Book Launch Webinar of “Understanding Religion: Theories and Methods for Studying Religiously Diverse Societies” by Dr Paul Hedges, 5 August 2021

July

RSIS Webinar on “Nuclear Security Governance in the Asia-Pacific: Pathways to Cooperation”, organised by NTS Centre, 29 July 2021

RSIS Webinar on “Climate Change and Communities – a Human Security Perspective”, organised by NTS Centre, 28 July 2021

International Maritime Security Conference 2021, 28 July 2021

ICPVTR Two-Part Webinar Series on Social Movements, Extremism, and Violence by Dr Irm Haleem on:

- “Understanding the Far Right and Far Left”, 27 July 2021
- “Social Movement Theory”, 29 June 2021

RSIS Book Launch Webinar of “Contesting Sovereignty: Power and Practice in Africa and Southeast Asia” by Dr Joel Ng, 22 July 2021

ICPVTR Webinar by Dr Hazart Omar Zakhilwal, Co-founder and Current Leader of the Afghanistan Salvation Movement, on “The Prospects for Peace and Conflict amid the US Withdrawal from Afghanistan and Its Implications”, 19 July 2021

The Ngee Ann Kongsi-RSIS Distinguished Virtual Public Lecture by Dr Stephen Roach, Senior Fellow, Jackson Institute of Global Affairs, and Senior Lecturer, School of Management, Yale University, USA, and Former Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, on “The US-China Relationship: From Conflict to Resolution”, 15 July 2021

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)-RSIS Policy Research Network on Contemporary South East Asia (PRN-SEA) Webinar by Dr Jayant Menon, Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, on “Pandemic Fallout, Disruptive Technologies, and Divergent Demographics: Policy Challenges Facing Countries in the Indo Pacific”, 13 July 2021

Terrorism Analyst Training Course on “Regional Development and Trends in Terrorism”, organised by ICPVTR, 12-16 July 2021

RSIS-Embassy of France Panel Webinar on “France as an Indo-Pacific Nation: Security and Multilateralism in Challenging Times”, 8 July 2021

RSIS-Embassy of Peru Panel Webinar on “Peru and Singapore: Enhancing Ties Across the Pacific Ocean”, 7 July 2021

June

ICPVTR Webinar by Lieutenant General (R) Asad Durrani, Former Director-General of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) Pakistan, on “The Future of Al-Qaeda in the Context of the U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan”, 28 June 2021

IPS-RSIS Forum on “Race and Racism in Singapore”, 25 June 2021

RSIS Webinar Series on Multilateralism Studies on:

- “Advances in Mapping Digital Policies”, organised by CMS, 16 June 2021
- “Pacific Regionalism at a Crossroads: How Did We Get Here and Where to Next?”, organised by CMS, 18 March 2021
- “A Pacific Turn? The Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union towards Asia”, organised by CMS, 9 April 2021
- “Digital Diplomacy after COVID-19: Estrangement and Disruption”, organised by CMS, 22 April 2021

ICPVTR Webinar Series on Terrorism and Extremism in Europe by Dr Daniela Pisoju and Dr Guido Steinberg, on “Juggling Threats From All Sides: Germany’s Complex Terrorist Picture”, 15 June 2021

May

5th Korea-Singapore Forum on “ROK-SG Cooperation for the Post-COVID-19 Era: Resilience and Innovation”, co-organised by RSIS; Korea Foundation (KF); Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore; and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ROK, 28 May 2021

The full list and details are at www.rsis.edu.sg/events

RSIS Book Launch Webinar of “Religious Hatred: Prejudice, Islamophobia, and Antisemitism in Global Context” by Dr Paul Hedges, 25 May 2021

CENS & High Commission of Canada Webinar Series on Gender, Security and Digital Space: Exploring Risks, Opportunities, and Security Implications on “Panel 3: Fighting Gender-Based Hate Speech and Disinformation, and the Role of Social Innovation”, 25 May 2021

ICPVTR Webinar Series on Terrorism Landscape in Southeast Asia by Dete Aliah and Dr Ahmad El-Muhammady, on “Managing the Return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Southeast Asia: Complexities and Challenges”, 24 May 2021

RSIS-SPRINGER Book Launch Webinar of “Humanitarianism in the Asia-Pacific: Engaging the Debate in Policy and Practice”, 19 May 2021

ICPVTR Virtual Roundtable with Imam Maturidi International Scientific Research Center, on “Approaches of Uzbekistan and Singapore in Combating Terrorism and Religious Extremism”, 19 May 2021

CENS & High Commission of Canada Webinar Series on Gender, Security and Digital Space: Exploring Risks, Opportunities, and Security Implications on “Panel 2: Gender, Disinformation and Politics”, 18 May 2021

RSIS-WTO Virtual Parliamentary Workshop 2021, 17-19 May 2021

CENS & High Commission of Canada Webinar Series on Gender, Security and Digital Space: Exploring Risks, Opportunities, and Security Implications on “Panel 1: Securing Digital Space with Attention to Gender”, 11 May 2021

IDSS 25th Anniversary Lecture by Professor Eliot Cohen, Robert E. Osgood Professor, and Dean, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, on “Shakespeare for Strategists”, 6 May 2021

RSIS Webinar on “DAP and Malaysian Politics Post-Sheraton Move”, organised by Malaysia Programme, IDSS, 4 May 2021

April

RSIS-Center for China and Globalization (CCG)-Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Virtual Exchange on “The Next Bound in US-China Relations”, organised by China Programme and United States Programme within IDSS, 29 April 2021

ICPVTR Webinar by Dr Matthew Levitt, Fromer-Wexler Fellow at The Washington Institute and director of its Jeanette and Eli Reinhard Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, on “Two Decades from 9/11: Rethinking U.S. Efforts on Counterterrorism”, 27 April 2021

5th NTS-Asia Consortium Annual Conference on “Asian Security in a Post-COVID 19 Environment”, 13-15 April 2021

ICPVTR Webinar by Ms Sidney Jones, Director, Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC), Jakarta, Indonesia, on “Evolving Terrorism Threat in Southeast Asia”, 9 April 2021

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)-RSIS Webinar by Dr Pradumna B. Rana, Visiting Associate Professor, CMS, RSIS, on “The Pandemic and De-globalisation: Is Globalisation Dead?”, 7 April 2021

CENS Webinar on “Surveillance and Privacy during COVID-19 and the Next Normal”, 7 April 2021

March

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)-RSIS Policy Research Network on Contemporary Southeast Asia (PRN-SEA) Webinar on “Sustainable Growth in ASEAN Countries”, 30 March 2021

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)-RSIS Policy Research Network on Contemporary Southeast Asia (PRN-SEA) Webinar on “Changing Landscape of Development Cooperation in Southeast Asia”, 25 March 2021

5th SRP Executive Programme II on “Religion, Hatred, Law, and the Pandemic”, organised by SRP Programme, 23-24 March 2021

RSIS Virtual Roundtable on “COVID-19 in Asia: Reflections One Year On”, organised by NTS Centre, 19 March 2021

RSIS-International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Data Governance and Protection in Humanitarian Action Online Workshop, organised by NTS Centre, 18 March 2021

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)-RSIS Policy Research Network on Contemporary Southeast Asia (PRN-SEA) Webinar on “State Responses to Extremism in Post-Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia”, 17 March 2021

Virtual Workshop on “China under Xi: Policies and Challenges”, organised by China Programme, IDSS, 16 March 2021

RSIS-Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC) Workshop on “Humanitarian Futures in the Asia-Pacific”, organised by NTS Centre, 16 and 31 March 2021

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)-RSIS Webinar on “Great Power Rivalry and Maritime Order in Southeast Asia”, 9 March 2021

RSIS Panel Webinar on “US-China Rivalry: A ‘Decoupling’ World?”, organised by United States Programme, IDSS, 4 March 2021

NSSP-ICPVTR Webinar by Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, Assistant Commissioner for Specialist Operations (ACSO), Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), and Senior Officer in charge of Counter Terrorism (CT) policing, United Kingdom, on “The UK Experience of Learning Lessons from Countering Terrorism 2014 to 2020”, 4 March 2021

RSIS Webinar Series on Post-Pandemic Multilateralism and Diplomacy on:

- “COVID-19 and the Future of Diplomacy”, organised by CMS, 2 March 2021
- “Multilateralism and Trade in a Post-COVID World”, organised by CMS, 23 February 2021
- “COVID-19 and Great Power Competition”, organised by CMS, 16 February 2021

February

RSIS Webinar on “Disaster Governance and Prospects of Inter-Regional Partnership in the Asia-Pacific”, organised by NTS Centre, 25 February 2021

RSIS Book Launch Webinar of “Where Great Powers Meet: America and China in Southeast Asia” by Dr David Shambaugh, 25 February 2021

Virtual Workshop on “China’s Domestic Transformations and Impacts on Global Governance”, organised by China Programme, IDSS, 18-19 February 2021

Virtual Workshop on “China’s Relations with Its Neighbouring Countries: Domestic Politics Perspectives”, organised by China Programme, IDSS, 9-10 February 2021

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)-RSIS Webinar by Professor Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, on “Evaluation of the Signing of the RCEP Agreement and Prospect for Regional Economic Integration in Asia”, 5 February 2021

January

RSIS Virtual Workshop on “Sources of Peace in East Asia”, organised by Regional Security Architecture Programme, IDSS, 29 January 2021

ICPVTR Webinar by Suzanne Raine, Affiliate Lecturer, Centre for Geopolitics at Cambridge University, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Imperial War Museum, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and Stop The Traffik, on “What Happens Now? Terrorism and the Challenges of Counter-terrorism in the Next Decade”, 27 January 2021

Conference on “Regional Maritime Security Outlook 2021”, organised by Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, 20-21 January 2021

Workshop on “Great Powers Exceptionalism: Sino-American Conceptions of World Order”, organised by China Programme and United States Programme, IDSS, 19 January 2021

In Appreciation

*We thank everyone who has contributed
to this Annual Review.*

*Thank you to all who have extended
support in various ways all these years.*

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