Conference Session Abstracts

Session 1: The SCS in the Indo-Pacific: Strategic and Geo-Economic Perspectives
Given the accelerating pace of change in the South China Sea, there is a need to continually reassess the strategic implications of this multi-party dispute. However, there is also a need to examine the neglected implications of geo-economics including, more specifically, the 'relationship between economic policy and changes in national power and geo-politics' in view of rising tensions in the South China Sea. This session will be important context for the rest of the conference and project through a broad consideration of these two interdependent spheres. Meanwhile, it is designed to develop a picture of the full range of challenges posed by the dispute for the Indo-Pacific.

Session 2: Critical security and economic dilemmas for Southeast Asia in the South China Sea
Officially, there are four Southeast Asian states with claims to various areas and/or features within the South China Sea. While Indonesia might be included as a de facto party to the dispute (given that China's nine dash line appears to conflict with Indonesia's Natuna gas field and the EEZ), Indonesia's position and role will be examined in Session 4. The speakers from this session will most notably outline and critique the positions of their respective countries vis-à-vis the South China Sea and will also articulate the key challenges and policy dilemmas generated by their respective disputes (e.g. territorial, resource access, environmental degradation and other challenges for trade, aid, and investment). The session also critically assesses the ASEAN's potential contributions in the future. It is important as it is the only organisation that embraces all the Southeast Asian countries (except Timor Leste) and has sought to manage the disputes over a quarter of a century.

Session 3: The SCS and China-US Relations: A case of great power rivalry, reluctant entanglement and/or strategic exaggeration
Much debate has been waged about whether recent tensions over the South China Sea are primarily a result of 'great power rivalry' or the U.S. being 'reluctantly drawn in' due to alliances and concerns about the implications of regional instability. What does the empirical evidence suggest about the dynamics and motivations informing China-U.S. relations (vis-à-vis the South China Sea) and what are the implications of such a state-of-affairs for the South China Sea and the regional order? What do China and the U.S. want and are their respective positions reconcilable? Is China a Pacific Power or (as some suggest) does its behaviour in the South China Sea indicate otherwise? Conversely, what are the implications of the South China Sea dispute for great power relations and the evolution of the foreign and defence policy positions within China and the U.S.? Could the China-US-South China Sea nexus serve as a litmus test for future trends in the regional/ global orders? What can be done by the great powers to mitigate the South China Sea disputes; reduce the risk of regional conflict; and avert a dangerous shift towards a more competitive and even hostile world order? Moreover, to what extent may Beijing’s policy stance over the South China Sea, including militarisation of the disputes, be driven by domestic considerations such as nationalism and state fragility.

Session 4: National interests and the Role of Major and Middle Powers in the SCS
Is there a constructive role for other great and middle power actors in the SCS? If so, what are the actual and/or potential contributions of such non-claimant states? In building on the geo-economic and strategic concerns noted in the first session, what other factors might impede a unilateral and/or collective role from countries such as Japan, India, Indonesia and Australia? In the case of Japan, what are the key economic, diplomatic and military arenas where it can provide support? In regard to India, under what circumstances might India sometimes adopt a more proactive and collaborative role in the region? Meanwhile, what has been Australia’s role to date and should the Australian government undertake a more significant role in the future? If so, what role should this be given the long noted dilemma of balancing between the U.S. as its primary security partner and China as its primary trade partner? Should it be time for Australia to undertake a new mix of strategic and economic policies?

Session 5: International Law, UNCLOS and the Arbitral Tribunal Determination: Retrospect and Prospects
Many claims and counter-claims have been made about ‘sovereign rights’ and the application of international law, UNCLOS, and the legitimacy of the July 2016 ruling by the Arbitral Tribunal set up under Annex VII of UNCLOS. This session brings in international law experts to provide an independent assessment of the respective roles of history, convention, and UNCLOS according to international law. Moreover, the session critically reviews the key arguments of the claimant states and the compatibility of such positions with international law. Finally, the session examines the strengths and weaknesses of international law vis-à-vis the particular claims that have been made in the South China Sea and the potential impact of international law on the dispute (positive and/or negative aspects). Areas for constructive endeavours under international law (such as joint exploration and a fisheries management regime) will also be explored.
Session 6: Challenges and Implications for Conflict Mitigation and/or Dispute Resolution

This session scans the horizon for the purpose of developing the most feasible and constructive policy approaches for the claimant states and other stakeholders in the region. In this context, the session addresses a range of interdependent questions including the following. What are the ways forward for the claimant states and ASEAN? What does China want and what are the policy options and dilemmas that China will face in the future? What are the policy options for the ASEAN claimant states? What are the points of commonality and points of differentiation regarding their policy approaches in the South China Sea? What is the best way forward for each of the ASEAN claimants in the future? Should such considerations include various military approaches (e.g. deterrence) and/or international legal arbitration? For ASEAN, how feasible will ASEAN unity be in the future and what pathways could ASEAN take to maintain solidarity on the issue and/or isolate the issue from other areas of cooperation? Can ASEAN continue to move forward under principles of the ASEAN way including (in theory) ‘non-interference,’ ‘respect for sovereignty’ and ‘consensus based decision making’? How might major powers such as Japan, the U.S. and India reasonably contribute to a reduction of tensions over the issue as well as peace and stability more generally? Meanwhile, how can middle powers best contribute to peace and stability in this region. Most significantly, and in the context of all stakeholders, what can be done to mitigate the risk of conflict and other potential economic, political and strategic costs associated with the dispute? Under what circumstances (if any) might activities such as joint exploration, joint development, and/or sustainable fishery regimes become feasible and how might various parties contribute to such outcomes?

South China Sea Workshops

This smaller 2-part workshop is an opportunity for discussions, based on Chatham House Rules, to reflect on the key issues raised by the conference, to analyse further the key issues raised by the conference, to analyse further outcomes? The implications of economic interdependence for the foreign policies of the middle and great powers vis-à-vis the South China Sea; The implications of nationalisms, state fragility and declining performance legitimacy for the foreign policies of the claimant states and their associated capacity to reach a settlement on the South China Sea issue; The challenges posed for neighbouring middle and great powers such as Japan and Australia; The ways forward for ASEAN and the ASEAN member states; The role of international arbitration; The role of deterrence and other military options; Following Beijing’s construction of artificial islands, is it possible or acceptable for a new status quo amidst ASEAN and its claimant states; The potential for joint exploration or other conflict mitigating approaches.

Workshop A: Guided Discussion for Presenters, Discussants and Invited Guests

Closed session based on Chatham House Rules. Authors, chairs, discussants and invited academics and government officials to discuss and work through various issues. Key individuals will be tasked with providing a few minutes of opening comments on pre-selected issues when asked by the session chairs. The session will be interactive and proceed on the basis of a guided discussion including the following possible themes:

- Key points and issues raised in the conference that should be examined and/or developed further;
- China’s position over the South China Sea, its strategic motivations and its current costs/benefits calculation;
- The implications of economic interdependence for the foreign policies of the middle and great powers vis-à-vis the South China Sea;
- The implications of nationalism, state fragility and declining performance legitimacy for the foreign policies of the claimant states and their associated capacity to reach a settlement on the South China Sea issue;
- The challenges posed for neighbouring middle and great powers such as Japan and Australia;
- The ways forward for ASEAN and the ASEAN member states;
- The role of international arbitration;
- The role of deterrence and other military options;
- Following Beijing’s construction of artificial islands, is it possible or acceptable for a new status quo amidst ASEAN and its claimant states;
- The potential for joint exploration or other conflict mitigating approaches.

Workshop B: Author Reflections and Book Considerations

Considerations and directions for the edited book and its respective chapters.

Conference Program - Day 1

Wednesday 28 September 2016

Welcome Dinner
The Boathouse by the Lake, Grevillea Park, Menindee Drive, Barton ACT 2600
6.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Welcome drinks from 6 pm, seated by 6.30 pm;
Short remarks by representatives of UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy, the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, and the Japan Institute of International Affairs;
Keynote address 1: The South China Sea: History and Fish
Professor James Goldrick, UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Rear Admiral Riz, confirmed.

Thursday 29 September 2016 - Seminar Room 06 (Red Room adjacent to Building 32)

Time Session
8.30 am – 8.45 am Welcome Remarks

Session 1 The SCS in the Indo-Pacific: Strategic and Geo-Economic Perspectives
(15 minutes per speaker, 10 minutes for discussant)
Chair: Professor Nguyen Vu Tung, President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) confirmed.
Speaker 1: Strategic perspective: Professor Su Hao, Department of Diplomacy, China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing China (confirmed).
Speaker 2: Strategic perspective: Richard Bitzinger, Co-ordinator of the Military Transformations Program, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (confirmed).
Speaker 4: Geo-economic perspective: Professor David Jay Green, Hult International Business School, United States (confirmed).
Discussant: Emeritus Professor Carlyle Thayer, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy (confirmed).

10.30 am – 11.00 am Morning Tea

Session 2 Critical security and economic dilemmas for Southeast Asia in the South China Sea
(15 minutes per speaker, 10 minutes for discussant)
Chair: Ambassador Shingo Yamagami, Acting Director-General, Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Tokyo (confirmed).
Speaker 1: Malaysia and Brunei: Dr Elina Noor, Director of the Foreign Policy and Security Studies Programme, and Thomas Benjamin Daniel, analyst in the Foreign Policy and Security Studies Programme, IISE Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur (confirmed).
Speaker 2: The Philippines: Professor Aileen Baviera, Head of Asian Centre, University of the Philippines, and Mr Lucio B. Pito III, Assistant Professor; International Studies, De La Salle University, The Philippines. (confirmed).
Speaker 3: Vietnam: Dr Tran Truong Thuy, Director of the Center for East Sea (South China Sea) Studies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Hanoi (confirmed).
Speaker 4: ASEA: Associate Professor Christopher Roberts, Director of National Asian Security Studies Program (NASSP), UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Australia (confirmed).
Discussant: Dr Jian Zhang, Deputy-Head of School, UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Australia (confirmed).

12.45 pm – 2.00 pm Formal Lunch ADF Officers Mess Buffet

Session 3 The SCS and China-US Relations: A Case of Great Power Rivalry, Reluctant Entanglement and/or Strategic Exaggeration?
(15 minutes per speaker, 10 minutes for discussant)
Chair: Professor David Lovett, Head of School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Australia (confirmed).
Speaker 1: Beijing’s perspective: Dr Jian Zhang, Deputy Head of School, UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy (confirmed).
Speaker 2: The U.S. Perspective: Zack Cooper, Fellow, Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington DC, United States (confirmed).
Speaker 3: Domestic influences on foreign policy in China: Associate Professor Shahrar Hameri, Associate Director, School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland, Australia (confirmed).
Discussant: Dr Tran Truong Thuy, Director of the Center for East Sea (South China Sea) Studies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Hanoi (confirmed).
### Conference Program - Day 3

#### Friday 30 September 2016 - Seminar Room 06 (Red Room adjacent to Building 32)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 4</th>
<th>National interests and the Role of Major and Middle Powers in the SCS</th>
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<td><strong>3.30 pm – 4.00 pm</strong></td>
<td>Afternoon Tea</td>
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| **4.00 pm – 5.45 pm** | Chair: Ambassador Nguyen Duc Hung, Senior Advisor on Maritime Issues, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (former Ambassador to Singapore and Canada, confirmed).  
Speaker 1: Japan: Mr Tetsuo Kotani, Senior Fellow, Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Tokyo, Japan (confirmed).  
Speaker 2: India: Ms Darshana Baruah, Research Analyst, Carnegie India Foundation, New Delhi, India (confirmed).  
Speaker 3: Indonesia: Dr Shafiah F. Muhibat, Deputy Head of Department of Politics and International Relations, CSIS Jakarta, Indonesia (confirmed).  
Speaker 4: Australia: Dr Euan Graham, Director, International Security Program, Lowy Institute for International Policy (confirmed).  
Discussant: Professor Shirley Scott, School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales (confirmed). |
| **4.45 pm – 6.00 pm** | Preliminary Summation of the day and outline of events for Friday |
| **6.30 pm – 8.30 pm** | Dinner at the Spicy Ginger Dumpling Restaurant for Role Players (25 guests) |

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<th>Session 5</th>
<th>International Law, UNCLOS and the Arbitral Tribunal Determination: Retrospect and Prospects</th>
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| **8.30 am – 10.15 am** | Chair: Associate Professor Christopher Roberts, UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy (confirmed).  
Speaker 1: The SCS Award and the Regime of Islands, Historic Rights and Environmental Obligations: Professor Clive Schofield, Director of Research at the Australian Centre for Ocean Resource Security, University of Wollongong (confirmed).  
Speaker 2: The Implications of the July 2016 Arbitral Tribunal Ruling: Dr Nguyen Dang Thang, Vietnam Lawyer's Association (VLA, confirmed).  
Speaker 3: The Potential Utility of International Law for Conflict Mitigation and or Resolution: Professor Bing Ling, Professor of Chinese Law, Associate Director, Centre for Asian and Pacific Law, Associate Dean (International), Sydney Law School, University of Sydney, Australia (confirmed).  
Speaker 4: The Potential Utility of International Law for Conflict Mitigation and or Resolution: Associate Professor Douglas Guijtufy, Faculty of Law, Monash University, Australia (confirmed).  
Discussant: Ambassador Shingo Yamagami, Acting Director-General, Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Tokyo (confirmed). |
| **10.15 am – 10.45 am** | Morning Tea |

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### Conference Workshops

#### Friday 30 September 2016 - Lecture Room 04, Lecture Theatre South, Building 30

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<th>Workshop A</th>
<th>Guided Discussion for Presenters, Discussants and Invited Guests</th>
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<td><strong>12.40 pm – 1.30 pm</strong></td>
<td>Informal lunch, ADFA Officer's Mess</td>
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| **1.30 pm – 3.30 pm** | Workshop A: Army and Airforce Rooms, Adam's Auditorium (Building 111 on ADFA Map)  
Closed session based on Chatham House Rules. Authors, chairs, discussants and invited academics and government officials to discuss and work through various issues. Key individuals will be tasked with providing a few minutes of opening comments on pre-selected issues when asked by the session chairs.  
**3.30 pm – 4.00 pm** | Afternoon Tea (all Workshop A participants) |

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<tr>
<th>Workshop B</th>
<th>Author Reflections and Book Considerations</th>
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| **4.00 pm – 5.30 pm** | Airforce Room, Adam's Auditorium (Building 111 on ADFA Map)  
Author's discussion; considerations and directions for the edited book and its respective chapters  
**Chairs:** Dr Tran Truong Thuy and Associate Professor Christopher Roberts |
| **6.00 pm – 9.00 pm** | Closing Dinner: Promenade Café for Role Players |
Darshana M. Baruah is a research analyst with Carnegie India. Her primary research focuses on maritime security in Asia with a focus on the Indian Navy and its role in a new security architecture. She writes regularly on maritime issues such as India’s naval strategy, India’s naval engagement with regional powers, Sino-India competition, geopolitical developments in the Indian Ocean region, India’s maritime strategic outlook, and the South China Sea. Her work also examines the strategic implications of China’s infrastructure and connectivity projects in the Indian Ocean region and South Asia. Darshana was a 2016 national parliamentary fellow, Australia, where her research focused on India and Australia in the Indo-Pacific. At the Australian Parliament, she was associated with the office of the Hon. Ms. Teresa Gambaro MP the then chair, Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. She was a visiting fellow at the Australian National University, the academic partner for the Parliamentary fellowship. While in Australia, she also spent a brief time as a visiting fellow in the International Security Program at the Lowy Institute.


Zack Cooper is a fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where he focuses on Asian security issues. Prior to joining CSIS, Dr. Cooper worked as a research fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. He previously served on the White House staff as assistant to the deputy national security adviser for combating terrorism. He also worked as a special assistant to the principal deputy under secretary of defense for policy in the Pentagon. He received a B.A. from Stanford University and an M.P.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Princeton University.

Thomas Benjamin Daniel is a Foreign Policy and Security Studies analyst with ISIS Malaysia. His interests include security challenges and big power competition in ASEAN, as well as the relationship between ASEAN and regional powers. Thomas obtained his Master of Arts in International Studies from the University of Nottingham (Malaysia) where he graduated with distinction, completing a dissertation that assessed Malaysia’s responses to China in the South China Sea dispute through the balance of threat approach. He also holds a BA in Communication and Media Management, and a BA Honours in Communication, Media & Culture from the University of South Australia.

Toni Erskine is Professor of International Politics, Director of Research Development in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Associate Director (Politics & Ethics) of the Australia Centre for Cyber Security, UNSW Canberra. Her research interests include: the moral agency and responsibilities of formal organisations (such as states, multinational corporations and intergovernmental organisations); the just war tradition; international relations (IR) theory; cosmopolitan theories and their critics; the ethics of intelligence collection; the responsibility to protect (RtoP); moral norms and cyber security; and moral responsibility in relation to new technologies of war (particularly with respect to artificial intelligence).

Dr. Euan Graham is Director, International Security Program at the Lowy Institute. Euan has been a close observer of East Asian security affairs for more than twenty years, in academia, the private sector, and for the British Government. Euan joined the Institute from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore where he was a Senior Fellow specializing in maritime issues. Prior to this he was a research analyst in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and served as Chargé d’Affaires at the British Embassy in Pyongyang.

Euan’s research interests include Australian defence policy, maritime disputes in the East and South China Seas, nuclear proliferation, the US reliance to Asia and defence diplomacy. His book Japan’s Sea Lane Security 1940-2004: A Matter of Life and Death? ( Routledge) was the first comprehensive English-language analysis on this subject. Euan obtained his PhD from the Australian National University in 2003. He remains an Associate Fellow at the UK Royal United Services Institute.

David Jay Green is Professor of Economics at Hult International Business School, San Francisco, USA. Dr. Green earned his B.S. at the California Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. from Columbia University. He was previously Director of the Regional Cooperation Unit of the Asian Development Bank’s Southeast Asia Regional Department. He has also served as an Economist on the US Federal Reserve Board and a tenured Professor of Economics at Hosei University, Japan. He recently authored The Third Option for the South China Sea: The Political Economy of Regional Conflict and Cooperation, forthcoming from Palgrave Macmillan.

Associate Professor Douglas Guilfoyle researches in the fields of the law of the sea and international criminal law at Monash University, where he joined the Faculty of Law in 2015. He was formerly a Reader in International Law at University College London. He is the author of Shipping Interdiction and the Law of the Sea (CUP 2009) and International Criminal Law (OUP 2016). He has written widely on maritime security, naval warfare and Somali piracy and consulted to international organisations and governments. He holds his LLM and PhD from the University of Cambridge, where he was a Gates Scholar, and undergraduate degrees from the Australian National University.

Shahar Hameiri is Associate Professor of International Politics and Associate Director of the Graduate Centre in Governance and International Affairs, School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland. Associate Professor Hameiri’s research focuses on security governance in the Asia-Pacific. He obtained his PhD at the Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University. His latest book, co-authored with Lee Jones is Governing Borderless Threats (Cambridge University Press, 2015). His research has been published by leading scholarly journals including International Studies Quarterly, European Journal of International Relations and Review of International Studies.

**Kei Koga** is Assistant Professor, the Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University. His current research focuses on IR theory, International Security, International Institutions, East Asian security, such as transformation of U.S.-bilateral security networks and ASEAN-led institutions. His recent publications include “The rise of China and Japan's balancing strategy: critical junctures and policy shifts in the 2010s,” (Journal of Contemporary China, 2016) and “Image and Substance Failures in Regional Organisations” (co-author of Politics and Governance, 2016). He is the author of the forthcoming book, Reinventing Regional Security Institution in Asia and Africa (Routledge).

**Harry Krejsa** is an Asia-Pacific Security Research Associate at the Center for a New American Security. Prior to joining CNAS, Mr. Krejsa worked in political, strategic, and economic research for the U.S. National Defense University, the Joint Economic Committee in Congress, and as a consultant on political transition in Myanmar. His work and publications emphasize the intersection of security and economics.

Mr. Krejsa holds a master’s degree in International Relations from Princeton University. He graduated from Grinnell College with a B.A. in Political Science and East Asian Studies, is a Mandarin speaker, and served as a Fulbright Fellow in Taiwan.

**Mr. Tetsuo Kotani** is a senior fellow at the Japan Institute of International Affairs (UIIA). He also teaches at Hosei University and JMSDF Command and Staff College. In addition, he is a nonresident senior research fellow at the Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS), and an international advisor to the Project 2049 Institute. He was a visiting scholar at CSIS Japan Chair and US-Japan Center at Vanderbilt University. His research focus is the US-Japan alliance and maritime security.

He received a security studies fellowship from the RIPS in 2006-2008. He won the 2003 Japanese Defense Minister Prize. He has published numerous articles both in English and Japanese, and his recent English publications include “US-Japan Joint Maritime Strategy: Balancing the Rise of Maritime China” (CSIS, March 2014). He is preparing his first book on maritime security. He received a master’s degree from Dooshisha University.

**Professor Bing Ling** is currently Professor of Chinese Law and Associate Dean (International) of Sydney Law School. Before joining the University of Sydney in 2012, he was a founding professor of the Faculty of Law of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He received his undergraduate law degree from Peking University in 1989, his postgraduate law degree from the University of Michigan in 1992 and the Diploma of public international law from the Hague Academy of International Law in 1995. He has taught at the law faculties of Peking University, Tsinghua University, Renmin University of China, Fudan University, City University of Hong Kong, University of Michigan, New York University, University of Vienna, University of Hamburg and Aix-Marseille University. His areas of teaching and research include Chinese practice and perspectives on international law and Chinese civil and commercial law.

**David W. Lovett** is a Professor of International and Political Studies and Head of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at UNSW Canberra. He is the co-editor of The European Legacy and is a member of the Australian Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. He has written books on topics including Australian politics, communitist and post-communitist systems, applied ethics, and the history of ideas. He has just been appointed Editor of the Encyclopedia of Military Strategy, to be published by Springer Nature in 2016.

**Dr Shafiah Muhibat** is the Deputy Head of Department of Politics and International Relations, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta. She has been part of CSIS’s research team since 2000, where she has done and taken part in extensive research projects on politics and regional security in Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific. She has special interest in issues of regional security cooperation, maritime security, and development cooperation.

She is also the Chief Editor of The Indonesian Quarterly, a quarterly academic journal published by CSIS. She is the author of Unluk Indonesia 2014-2019: Agenda Social-Politik dan Keamanan, Jakarta: CSIS and Evolving Approaches to Regional Security Cooperation: A Conceptual Analysis of Cooperative Security with Illustrations of Practices in East Asia. She is a co-author of ASEAN’s Quest for A Full-Fledged Community, Jakarta: CSIS. She is also the author of chapters in a number of books and journal articles. She obtained a PhD in Political Science from the University of Hamburg in 2013, and a Masters degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in 2003.

**Nguyen Dang Thang**, BA (International Relations) (Hanoi), LLM (Nottingham), PhD (Cambridge) is a general international lawyer with keen interest in the teaching and promotion of international law in Viet Nam and Asia. He is an Executive Member of the Asian Society of International Law and a founding member of the newly established Vietnamese Society of International Law. He holds visiting lecturership at the Faculty of International Law, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV), where he teaches, inter alia, law of the sea, territorial and boundary disputes and international dispute settlement. Also at DAV, he is the founder and convenor of International Law Lecture Series which discusses, on a monthly basis, contemporary international and regional legal issues relevant to Viet Nam. Thang has published a number of articles in Vietnamese and English on the South China Sea issues.

**Nguyen Duc Hung** was Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Singapore from 1996 to 1999 and Canada from 2006 to 2010. He joined the Vietnam Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a career diplomat in 1973. While working at the MOFA headquarters in Hanoi, he held different positions as Chief of Staff; Assistant-Minister; Chief of Advisory Board to the Ministerial Leadership; Assistant-Minister and Director General of Americas Department. From 2010 to 2012 he had been appointed as Ambassador; Governor for Vietnam in Asia – Europe Foundation (ASEF), and from 2012 till now he works as Senior Advisor for Strategic Studies, Bien Dong Maritime Institute, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, MOFA.

**Associate Professor Nguyen Vu Tung** joined the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, (DAV) in 1990. From July 2010 and January 2014, he was Deputy Chief of Mission at the Vietnam Embassy in the United States. He is now DAV Acting President and Director of the Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies at the DAV.

He earned the Degree of Master of Arts in Diplomacy and Diplomacy (MALD) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and got the Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University in 2003.

His main areas of teaching, research, and publications include international relations theories, international relations in Southeast Asia and Asia - Pacific, Vietnamese foreign policy and relations with the United States and ASEAN.
Andrew O’Neill is Dean (Research) and Professor of Political Science in the Griffith University Business School. He was previously Head of the School of Government and International Relations at Griffith (2014-2016) and Director of the Griffith Asia Institute (2010-2014). Prior to entering academia in 2008, Andrew worked as a Commonwealth Public Servant in Australia’s Department of Defence. As part of research teams, he has won competitive funding from the Australian Research Council, the Defence Science and Technology Organisation, the Japan Foundation, the Australia-Japan Foundation, and the Australia-China Council. Between 2009 and 2013 Andrew was editor-in-chief of the Australian Journal of International Affairs. Andrew has published widely and has undertaken consultancies for (among others) the Council on Foreign Relations, US Pacific Command, the Lowey Institute for International Policy, the Korean Institute for National Unification, the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung, and Australia’s Department of Defence. Recent books include Australia’s Nuclear Policy: Reconciling Strategic, Economic and Normative Interests (2015, co-authored with Michael Clarke and Stephan Fruhling); Middle Powers and the Rise of China, (2014, co-edited with Bruce Gilley); and Asia, the United States, and Extended Deterrence: Atomic Umbrellas in the 21st Century (2013, sole-authored). He is a regular contributor to print and electronic media in Australia and internationally.

Lucio Blanco Pito III is an Assistant Professorial Lecturer for International Studies at De La Salle University and Lecturer for Chinese Studies at Ateneo de Manila University. He is also a Contributing Editor (Reviews) for Asian Politics & Policy journal and a Project Consultant for Asia-Pacifc Pathways for Progress Foundation Inc. He obtained his BA in Public Administration from the University of the Philippines and his Master of Laws from Peking University. His articles on foreign policy and security, including on Southeast Asia-China interaction and US-China competition in the region had appeared in The Diplomat and China-US Focus, among others.

Associate Professor Christopher Roberts (PhD) is the Director of the National Asian Security Studies Program at the University of New South Wales (Australian Defence Force Academy campus). He lived in Japan and Singapore for five years and has 15 years of field experience throughout Asia including all the ASEAN nations. Christopher specialises in the politics and security of Southeast and East Asia including ASEAN, the South China Sea, the pre-conditions to peace, post-conflict resolution, and the drivers and constraints to international collaboration and competition. Christopher has published more than forty books (2 sole authored and 2 edited), journal articles, chapters, conference papers, commentaries and reports that addressed a broad range of subjects including Myanmar, Brunei, Laos, Australia, Indonesia, ASEAN and the Southeast and East Asian regional orders.

Shirley Scott is a professor of international relations in the School of Social Sciences at UNSW. She has published widely in leading journals of both International Law and International Relations on aspects of the political functioning of international law. Shirley is author of several books including International Law: US Power: The United States’ Quest for Legal Security (CUP, 2012), and editor of Climate Change and the UN Security Council (with Charlotte Ku, Edward Eiger forthcoming). Shirley is Research Chair of the Australian Institute of International Affairs and a member of the Advisory Council of the Asian Society of International Law.

Professor Clive Schofield is Director of Research and Professor at the Australian Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong (UOW), Australia. He is also Academic Leader of the Sustaining Coastal and Marine Zones research theme within the UOW Global Challenges Program. He holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Durham, UK and also holds an LLM in international law from the University of British Columbia. His research interests relate to international boundaries and particularly maritime boundary delimitation and marine jurisdictional issues on which he has published over 200 scholarly publications. One has him an International Hydrographic Office (IHO) nominated Observer on the Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) and has also been actively involved in the peaceful settlement of boundary and territory disputes.

Dr Su Hao, is a professor in the Department of Diplomacy and founding director of Center for Strategic and Peace Studies at the CHINA FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNIVERSITY. He was chairman of Diplomacy Department, director of China’s Foreign Relations Section, general secretary of East Asian Studies Center, and director of Center for Asia-Pacific Studies within this university. He is also affiliated with some institutions in China, such as, president of Beijing Geopolitical Strategy and Development Association, members of Chinese Committee for Council of Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CISACAP) and Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECOC); board members of China Association of Arms Control and Disarmament, Pacific Society of China, China Association of Asian-African Development Exchange, and China Association of China-ASEAN.

Carlyle A. Thayer is a Emeritus Professor; The University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) where he contributes to the Executive Education Program. He is also Director of Thayer Consultancy and columnist for The Diplomat. Thayer is a Southeast Asia regional specialist and author of over 500 academic publications including ‘The Militarisation of the South China Seas’, in Asia-Pacific Regional Security Assessment 2016 released by the International Institute for Strategic Studies at this years’ Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore. Since 2009 Thayer has presented fifty academic papers on the South China Sea to international conferences.

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