ASEAN Forum 2016

Presented by the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre and the China Studies Centre

Friday 7 October 2016
The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre is forging Australia’s relationship with one of the world’s fastest growing regions by educating students and building new partnerships with academics and governments based on research excellence.

With more than 250 academics across all 16 faculties working on and in Southeast Asia, the University of Sydney has one of the highest concentrations of regional expertise in the world.
Welcome
China in ASEAN

The University of Sydney’s Southeast Asia Centre and China Studies Centre are delighted to welcome you to the 2016 ASEAN Forum ‘China in ASEAN’.

Overview

China is an emerging political superpower with a large population, rapid economic growth and increasing military spending. At the same time, the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) is moving towards greater economic integration through the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), hoping that integration will boost markets and attract increased investment to the region. While ASEAN’s integration is an ongoing process, the economic relationship between China and the AEC has been formalised through the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area agreement. At the same time, tensions have arisen between China and a number of Southeast Asia states due to competing claims for islands in the South China Sea.
Security

China’s regional geo-political interests are most visible in its contestation of islands in the South China Sea. Just as the motivations for claiming ownership of the area are multifaceted, including the desire to secure fishing reserves and energy resources, as well as military interests, the response of various ASEAN countries have also been wide-ranging. Speakers on this panel will address the key concerns and implications of on-going tensions between China and ASEAN countries in the South China Sea, reflecting on how it is affecting political, military and civil relations.

Economic Diplomacy

In November 2015, China offered US$20 billion in loans to Southeast Asians countries assist with regional infrastructure development, with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang arguing that China’s economic rise is beneficial for its neighbours and the region as a whole. At the same time, private Chinese business interests are also having a deep impact on investment throughout ASEAN. This panel will explore the benefits and challenges posed by increasing Chinese economic interests in China.

Chinese Diasporas in Southeast Asia

The Chinese have a long history of trade with and migration to Southeast Asia. Many ASEAN countries have well-established Chinese diasporas that have, traditionally, been heavily involved in commerce. Although many of these Chinese have lived in Southeast Asian Countries for generations, the question of identity continues to arise: how ‘Chinese’ are they and how can ‘Chinese’ are they able to be? Speakers on the panel will reflect on the place of Chinese diasporas in ASEAN countries, discussing topics such as of ethnic identity, cultural assimilation and ties to mainland China.
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<td><strong>Dr Hui Yew-Foong</strong>&lt;br&gt;ISEAS, Singapore</td>
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<td>‘How China’s world views are manifested in the South China Sea’</td>
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<td><strong>Dr Chang-Yau Hoon</strong>&lt;br&gt;Universiti Brunei Darussalam</td>
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<td><strong>Dr Mike Fabinyi</strong>&lt;br&gt;University of Technology Sydney</td>
<td><strong>Dr Jayde Roberts</strong>&lt;br&gt;University of Tasmania</td>
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<td>‘Great-power rivalry and emerging maritime security issues in the South China Sea’</td>
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<td><strong>Professor Renato Cruz De Castro</strong>&lt;br&gt;De La Salle University</td>
<td><strong>Dr Pichamon Yeophantong</strong>&lt;br&gt;University of New South Wales</td>
<td><strong>Professor Kasian Tejapira</strong>&lt;br&gt;Thammasat University</td>
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Keynote

Dr Alice Ba

Where China meets Southeast Asia: regional reconfigurations along the belt and road?

Few initiatives capture as many aspects of China’s growing influence in Southeast Asia as China’s 'Silk Road Economic Belt' and 'Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century'. With all its security, economic and political dimensions, China’s Belt and Road has the potential to redirect, reorganise, and reorder existing arrangements in varied ways. For Southeast Asian states, which offer key regional connecting points along the Belt and Road, the regional order implications of Chinese initiatives may be especially complicated. Not only does Southeast Asia sit at the intersection of US arrangements and emerging Chinese ones, but China’s Belt and Road initiatives also have implications for ASEAN and the 'ASEAN-centric' arrangements that states have pursued since the ending of the Cold War. Still, much about China’s initiatives also remains unknown and uncertain. What kinds of challenges and opportunities might Southeast Asian states expect? What are its potential implications for existing regional configurations and arrangements, especially ASEAN? How might Belt and Road be harnessed in ways that serve identified regional objectives and interests?

Alice D. Ba is Professor of Political Science & International Relations at the University of Delaware. Her research considers the international relations of Southeast Asia with a special focus on Southeast Asia’s relations with China, as well as the United States, and their significance for regionalism in East Asia and the Asia Pacific. Her past and current work trace the interactive effects of changing power dynamics and shifting modes of diplomatic and political exchange in ASEAN and Southeast Asia’s relations with major powers and their role and impact on existing patterns of East Asian regional integration. She is the author of (Re)Negotiating East and Southeast Asia: Region, Regionalism, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Stanford 2009), and serves on numerous editorial boards. She is also a research associate of the ASEAN Studies Center at American University in Washington, DC. She has also received US Fulbright awards for work in Beijing and Singapore. Professor Ba also served as Director of Asian Studies at UD from 2009-2014.
Associate Professor Jing Dong Yuan  
University of Sydney

Great power rivalry and emerging maritime security issues in the South China Sea  

Dr Merriden Varrall  
Lowy Institute for International Policy

How China’s world views are manifested in the South China Sea  
Dr Merriden Varrall is Director, East Asia Program at the Lowy Institute. Before joining the Lowy Institute, Merriden was the Assistant Country Director and Senior Policy Advisor at UNDP China, where she worked for the past three years on China’s role in the world. Merriden has spent eight years living and working in China, including lecturing in foreign policy at the China Foreign Affairs University and conducting fieldwork for her doctoral research. Prior to that she worked for the Australian Treasury. Merriden has a PhD in political anthropology from Macquarie University, Sydney, and the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. Her dissertation examined the ideational factors behind China’s foreign policy. She has a Masters Degree in International Affairs from the Australian National University, and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Technology Sydney.
**Security**

**Professor Renato Cruz De Castro**  
*De La Salle University*

**China’s maritime expansion realpolitik approach in the South China Sea**

Renato Cruz De Castro is a full professor in the International Studies Department, De La Salle University, and holds the Charles Lui Chi Keung Professorial Chair in China Studies. In 2009, Dr De Castro became the U.S. State Department ASEAN Research Fellow from the Philippines and was based in the Political Science Department of Arizona State University. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina as a Fulbright Scholar in 2001, and obtained his B.A. and two master’s degrees from the University of the Philippines. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Albert Del Rosario Institute for Strategic and International Studies. A consultant in the National Security Council of the Philippines during the Aquino Administration, Professor De Castro’s research interests include Philippine-U.S. security relations, Philippine defence and foreign policies, U.S. defence and foreign policies in East Asia, and the international politics of East Asia.

**Mr Aaron Connelly**  
*Lowy Institute for International Policy*

**Between two reefs: Indonesia’s relationship with China**

Aaron L. Connelly is a Research Fellow in the East Asia Program at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, where he focuses on Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia and Myanmar, and the U.S. role in the region. Prior to joining the Lowy Institute, Aaron worked at Albright Stonebridge Group in Washington. As a director at the firm, Aaron assisted companies and non-profits in understanding political risks to investments and operations in Southeast Asia. Previously, Aaron worked at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, and as a Fulbright Fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta. He completed work in security studies at Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service.
Economic Diplomacy

Chair: Professor Michele Ford (Sydney Southeast Asia Centre)

Dr Pichamon Yeophantong
University of New South Wales

Environmental aspects of Chinese economic investment in ASEAN

Pichamon Yeophantong is Lecturer in International Relations and Development at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). She leads the Environmental Justice and Human Rights in Asia Project at the Australian Human Rights Centre, and is also a Research Associate at Oxford University’s Global Economic Governance Programme. Previously, Pichamon was an ASEAN-Canada Senior Fellow at the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, and a Global Leaders Fellow at Princeton University and University College, Oxford. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in China and Southeast Asia. Her work has appeared in such publications as Pacific Affairs, Chinese Journal of International Politics and Asian Survey. Pichamon holds a PhD from the Australian National University.

Dr Mike Fabinyi
University of Technology Sydney

Chinese trade and investments in ASEAN marine resources

Michael Fabinyi is a Society in Science – Branco Weiss Senior Research Fellow at the University of Technology Sydney. He obtained his PhD at the Australian National University in 2009, and before moving to Sydney he was based for six years at the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University. Michael's research focuses on the political economy of fisheries in the Asia-Pacific, and he has worked in the Philippines, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Michael has held visiting appointments at Peking University, Palawan State University and most recently at WorldFish, Malaysia.
Economic Diplomacy

Associate Professor James Reilly
University of Sydney

China’s economic statecraft in Myanmar: a steep learning curve
James Reilly is an Associate Professor in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. He was a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Oxford (2008-09) and a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy (2015-16). He also served as the East Asia Representative of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in China from 2001-2008. He is the author of Strong Society, Smart State: The Rise of Public Opinion in China’s Japan Policy (Columbia University Press, 2012), and the co-editor of Australia and China at 40 (UNSW Press, 2012).

Mr Chanborey Cheunboran
CISS Research

China in Cambodia
Chanborey Cheunboran is a PhD candidate in International Political and Strategic Studies at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC), the Australian National University (ANU). He is also a research fellow at the Cambodian Institute for Strategic Studies (CISS), whose areas of interests include Cambodia’s foreign policy and security studies in the Asia-Pacific. Prior to joining the SDSC, he was an official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA.IC) of Cambodia, and a part-time lecturer of International Relations at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. He earned Master in Public Management from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, in conjunction with Harvard Kennedy School in 2014; M.A. in Diplomacy from Rangsit University, Thailand in 2009, and B.A. in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam in 2005.
Chinese Diasporas in Southeast Asia

Chair: Professor Jeffrey Riegel (China Studies Centre)

Dr Jayde Roberts
University of Tasmania

The place of the Chinese in Myanmar
Jayde Lin Roberts is a spatial ethnographer and interdisciplinary scholar of the built environment who focuses on Myanmar, Chinese overseas and Asian urbanism. Her book, Mapping Chinese Rangoon: Place and Nation among the Sino-Burmese, was published by the University of Washington Press in June 2016. Trained at the University of Washington, she currently lectures in Asian Languages and Studies at the University of Tasmania and is a Fulbright US Scholar for 2016-17.

Dr Chang-Yau Hoon
Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Chinese Indonesians: identity and place in post-Suharto Indonesia
Chang-Yau Hoon is Associate Professor at the Institute of Asian Studies, University of Brunei Darussalam, and Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia. Prior to this appointment, he was Sing Lun Fellow and Assistant Professor of Asian Studies at Singapore Management University. He was awarded the SMU Research Excellence Award in 2014 and the SMU Teaching Excellence Award in 2012. He is the author of Chinese Identity in Post-Suharto Indonesia: Culture, Media and Politics (2008, Sussex Academic Press), and the co-editor of Chinese Indonesians Reassessed: History, Religion and Belonging (Routledge, 2013), and Catalysts of Change: Ethnic Chinese Business in Asia (World Scientific, 2014).
Chinese Diasporas in Southeast Asia

Dr Hui Yew-Foong
ISEAS, Singapore

Singaporean Chinese and relations with mainland China
Dr Hui Yew-Foong is currently based in Hong Kong as Associate Professor of Sociology at the Hong Kong Shue Yan University. At the same time, he is affiliated with the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute as a Senior Fellow and is involved in its project on “Chinese in Southeast Asia”. He has extensive experience working on Chinese communities in the region, including Indonesia, East Malaysia and Singapore. In Singapore, he was Principal Investigator for the Bukit Brown Chinese Cemetery Documentation Project, which led to studies of Chinese migrant communities and Peranakan in Singapore, topics on which he has given seminars and public lectures.

Professor Kasian Tejapira
Thammasat University

The Sino-Thai’s right turn towards China
Kasian Tejapira is a professor of political science at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand. He is the author of numerous academic publications and a score of books in both Thai and English. He is also a noted columnist, burgeoning poet, and was formerly a radical activist and guerrilla fighter in the jungle of northeastern Thailand.
Three Minute Thesis Competition

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Executive’s Research Training Advisor, Dr Damien Field, and Postgraduate Coordinator, Ms Natali Pearson, will host the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre’s Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Challenge.

In just three minutes, postgraduate students are challenged to present a compelling oration on their thesis topic and its significance.

The exercise aims to develop academic, presentation, and research communication skills, and support the development of research students’ capacity to effectively explain their research in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience.

*We invite you to join us during lunch at 14.00 to hear our finalists perform in the New Law Foyer.*
Upcoming Events

Environment and Resources: A Postgraduate Seminar
12 October 2016, 12.30 – 14.30
Seminar Room 446, New Law School Annexe, University of Sydney

Why are Local Elections in Indonesia’s Papua Most Violent?
14 October 2016, 12.00 – 13.30
Seminar Room 344, New Law School Annexe, University of Sydney

The Environment in Southeast Asia’s Past, Present and Future
19 October 2016, 17.00 – 18.30
Seminar Room 444, New Law School Annexe, University of Sydney
BECOME A MEMBER

- Academic
- Professional
- Student

These categories are open to staff and students of the University of Sydney. Individuals from other institutions are invited to apply for associate membership in the relevant category.
