

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
A Review of 2020



RSiS

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://newsletter.ntu.edu.sg/classact/Dec11/Pages/cn3.aspx>

See pull-out section

Selected Essays

- Moving Singapore into a Post-COVID World

*By Dr Benjamin Ho
Assistant Professor with the
China Programme in IDSS,

Dr Joel Ng
Research Fellow with CMS, and

Dr Sarah Teo
Research Fellow with the
Regional Security Architecture
Programme in IDSS*

- Digital Transformation, Empathy, Resilience, and Inclusion

*By Mr Benjamin Ang, Senior Fellow
and Deputy Head of CENS*

- Presidential Elections, Geopolitical Uncertainty, and Hopes for Overcoming the Sino-US Conflict

*By Dr Adrian Ang, Research Fellow
with the US Programme in IDSS*

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Reflections

The COVID-19 global pandemic has unleashed illness, fatalities, and disruption of an unprecedented scale onto the world. Most outdoor activities have been curtailed and working from home has become the way of life. New online platforms have emerged to compete with the granddaddies of virtual interaction. We are now relying on such technologies to hold meetings and to accomplish work tasks faster and more efficient than ever.

To be sure, there are opportunities even in such dire times. The challenge is not to misappropriate them. It is also important to remind ourselves of the fundamentals, and where RSIS is concerned – leadership, institutions, social resilience, and trust – are critical factors as we study and research strategic developments and their implications for diverse nations and their international relations.

In a crisis, leadership is crucial – to make decisions, to lead the country out of the many dilemmas, and to position the nation for the future. There are different leadership styles in different cultures and societies. At the crux is having the ability to assess problems, to determine the most suitable resolution, and to carry the ground as the measures are implemented and followed through.

To do so, strong institutions are necessary. Domestically, it means the capacity and capability to perform consistently and in a transparent manner with due regard to legality and process. They include international organisations to safeguard multilateralism, the rule of law, and fair global practices. Quick response in dealing with non-compliance and being relevant to contemporary challenges are essential.

Strong leadership and institutions contribute to the building of public confidence and trust, and the strengthening of societal resilience that holds people together in times of crisis. Without these ingredients, consensus on needed action and policy could be elusive and the country would not be able to bounce back quickly. The negative result would have an adverse impact at the national and international levels.

Notwithstanding the difficult and evolving circumstances, RSIS researchers have continued to ponder the improbable and analyse a wide array of national issues, regional concerns, and international problems. Of note, we started a continuing series under RSIS Commentary on “COVID-19 Global Pandemic and Its Impacts”, looking at challenges faced by Singapore and its partners worldwide, and connecting minds with the work of RSIS.

COVID-19 did not stop RSIS from publishing a book on the inaugural International Conference on Cohesive Societies which we helped to organise in June 2019, and attended by more than 1,000 local and foreign participants. It was supported by Singapore’s President Halimah Yacob and the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Jordan’s King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein delivered the keynote speech at the opening session.

On the teaching side, RSIS staff and students adjusted quickly to face-to-face and online classes. The technological innovations have been stoically received. The learning curve is being flattened with each encounter on the academic calendar. RSIS continues to work closely with NTU to stabilise changes and to upkeep the unique learning experience offered by our Graduate School. I would like to encourage more feedback from students, staff, and alumni.

We are committed to give all our students and stakeholders the value which they have come to expect from RSIS. The digital, technological, and work-from-home innovations have reorganised our work systems. Yet, they have also offered numerous new areas of research and learning for RSIS and our partner institutions at home and abroad. The traditional ways – especially personal networking and research integrity – will maintain their salience.

Thank you all for your support and contribution to RSIS and its endeavours.

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

“ In a crisis, leadership is crucial – to make decisions, to lead the country out of the many dilemmas, and to position the nation for the future. ”



Message

The COVID-19 crisis has left its mark on RSIS activities in the academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The faculty and the graduate teaching staff in particular had to successfully overcome the major challenges created by the new online teaching paradigm and the travel restrictions affecting all RSIS international students.

The third trimester of Academic Year 2019-2020 saw the rapid transition of all masters classes taught on campus to fully online teaching via Microsoft Teams and Zoom platforms, once the circuit breaker period was announced in Singapore. 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, overcome the difficulties posed by the absence of classroom interactions, and carry on with their studies.

With all NTU convocation ceremonies postponed due to the pandemic, the class of 2020 marked the occasion of their graduation online as well, with the RSIS Virtual Graduation Celebration taking place on Saturday, 18 July with more than 100 students and faculty in attendance.

In academic Year 2020-2021, RSIS master's programmes have continued to attract a cosmopolitan student body with increasingly diverse educational, professional, and cultural backgrounds. Over 200 students from 25 countries enrolled in RSIS degrees in July 2020. Twenty students were offered scholarships and study awards in AY2020-2021, including the RSIS Scholarship, the Lee Foundation Scholarship, and Student Research Assistantships. Four 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 completed all the necessary procedures in time for the start of the academic year. They 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 2020.

Professor Ralf Emmers

Dean, RSIS

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

“ In academic Year 2020-2021, RSIS master's programmes have continued to attract a cosmopolitan student body with increasingly diverse educational, professional and cultural backgrounds. ”



About RSIS



Introduction to RSIS

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a leading 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 three 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 24 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);
- Science and Technology Studies Programme (STSP);
- Futures Issues and Technology (FIT).

Pioneering research in the non-traditional security (NTS) studies domain included the government-grant project to develop the first dynamic model of food availability at the country level (including Singapore) that linked scientific insights on climate impact on food production and demographics to the risks of

disruption to food production and exports in the region. This project is useful in developing greater resilience in Singaporean and regional food system.

RSIS produces both academic and policy-relevant research on security 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, and implications for foreign interference in domestic politics and policy-making.

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.

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.



Dr Tony Tan with Mr S R Nathan, then Director of IDSS, meeting the first batch of master's students

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

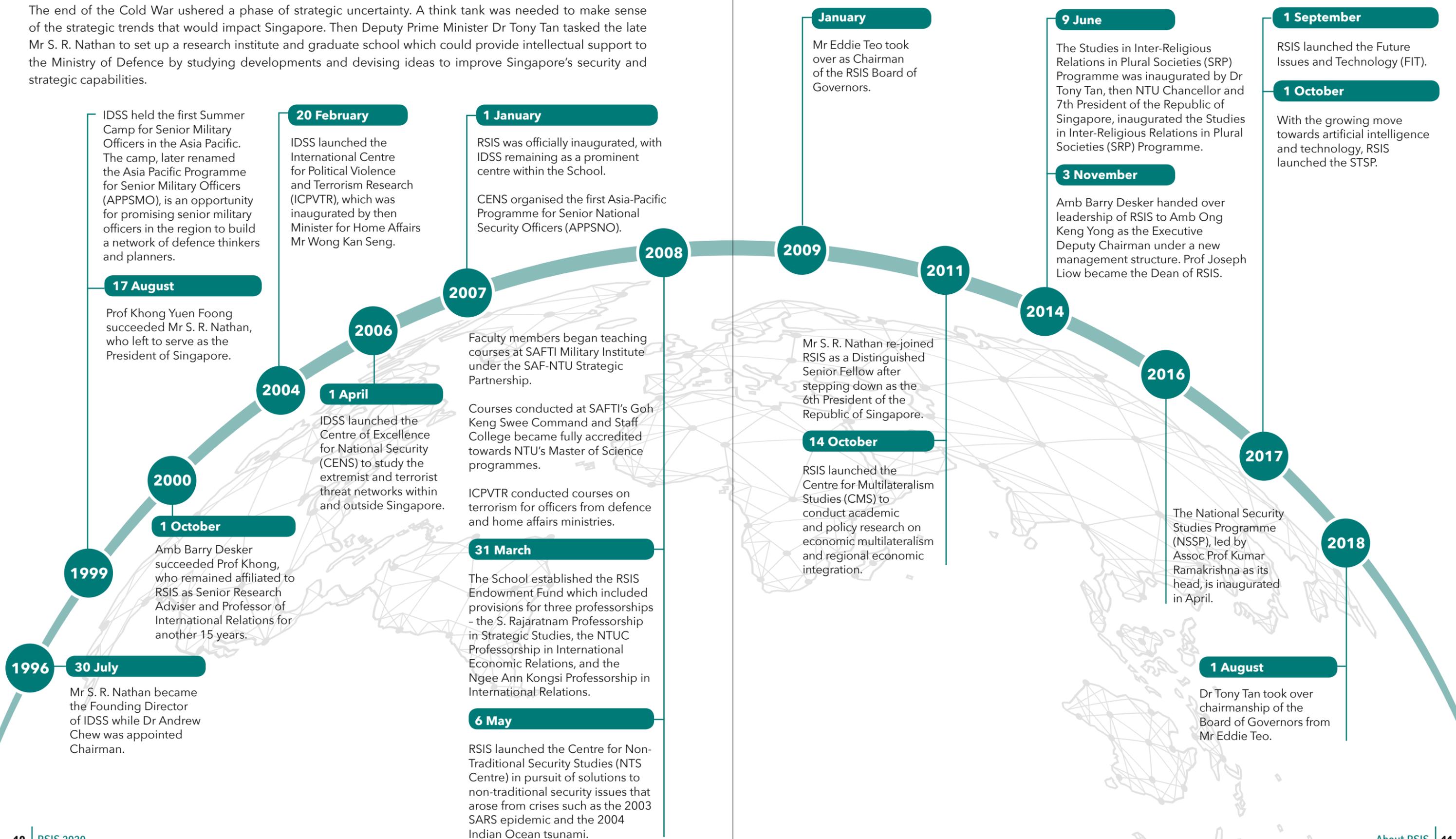
“ IDSS had a dual mission as both a think tank and a teaching institute. Mr Nathan went about developing both wings very carefully and methodically. Despite his vast experience and seniority, he was very humble and very cognizant of his strengths and limitations, always ready to learn and engage others 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

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



Research Centres / Programmes

Graduate Programmes Office

- MSc (Asian Studies)
- MSc (International Political Economy)
- MSc (International Relations)
- MSc (Strategic Studies)
- NTU-Warwick Double Master's Programme
- PhD Programme

Flagship Events

- Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) - *First edition in 1999*
- Asia Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO) - *First edition in 2007*
- Terrorism Analyst Training Course (TATC) - *First edition in 2008*
- SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium - *First edition in 2015*

Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS, 1996)

International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR, 2004)

Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS, 2006)

Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre, 2008)

Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS, 2011)

Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme (SRP Programme, 2014)

National Security Studies Programme (NSSP, 2016)

Science and Technology Studies Programme (STSP, 2017)

NTS-Asia Consortium

Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI)

Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)

RSIS also looks into Future Issues and Technology (FIT), which identifies emerging, cross-cutting issues and technology that have strategic impact on policy, as well as potential disruptive national security implications.

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 Executive Deputy Chairman Amb Ong Keng Yong identify and incubate new policy-relevant research programmes.

The Future Issues and Technology (FIT) was launched on 1 September 2017. It is a focused specialist cluster headed by Dr Shashi Jayakumar. FIT works with relevant RSIS Centres/Programmes to better identify emerging cross-cutting issues and technology that have strategic impact on policy, as well as potential disruptive national security implications. Increasingly too, issues such as the interplay between trade, technology and geopolitics, and the challenges of the post-COVID economy, will feature in the work that FIT does in conjunction with RSIS Centres/Programmes.

RSIS comprises five Research Centres and three Research Programmes.

Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)

IDSS is a prominent centre in RSIS. Its mission is to conduct analytically rigorous, cutting-edge research on defence and security-related issues and developments affecting the Asia Pacific region in the service of the Nation and the global research community.

International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR)

ICPVTR produces research and analyses, threat assessments, and policy reports on developments in terrorism in countries and regions around the world.

Set up on 20 February 2004, it conducts research, training and outreach programmes aimed at reducing the threat of politically motivated violence and mitigating the effects of this threat on the international system.

A leading centre for counter-terrorism and rehabilitation, the Centre provides training for officials engaged in combating terrorism and other forms of political violence. It also advises governments and informs societies affected by such violence on how best to manage the threat.

Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)

CENS, set up on 1 April 2006, is devoted to producing rigorous policy-relevant analyses of a range of national security issues and increasing the intellectual capital invested in strategising national security.

The Centre works closely with other RSIS research programmes and with national security agencies such as the National Security Coordination Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office.

Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre)

NTS Centre conducts empirically-grounded research to produce policy-relevant analyses aimed at increasing awareness of NTS issues and building capacity to address these issues in the Asia Pacific and beyond. These issues challenge the survival and well-being of peoples and states.

Set up on 6 May 2008, the Centre conducts rigorous research aimed at advancing the study of NTS issues. It provides a platform for scholars and policymakers in Asia and beyond to guide NTS policies, and engages the academic and policy communities to craft informed approaches to NTS challenges.



Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS)

The remit of CMS is to conduct academic and policy research on economic multilateralism and regional economic integration, educate government officials on those same concerns, and contribute substantively to the international policy debate on the evolving regional architecture of East Asia and the Asia Pacific. Launched on 14 October 2011, its mission is to conduct scholarly and policy research, facilitate policy dialogue and academic debate, and engage in capacity-building on and in multilateral cooperation and regional governance and integration in the Asia Pacific.

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

Launched on 9 June 2014, the SRP Programme aims to study how different communities adapt their religious life and evolve their religious doctrines to cope with the realities of living in plural societies. Through developing expertise in the study of inter-religious relations in plural societies, including their effective conflict resolution mechanisms; study models that promote peace and strengthen social ties; SRP Programme works to enrich the academic and applied knowledge of inter-religious relations with an Asian perspective.

National Security Studies Programme (NSSP)

This programme aims to foster and enhance intellectual capital pertaining to the milestone episodes in Singapore's security history and nation-building challenges. Launched in April 2016, NSSP represents the latest research collaboration between RSIS and the National Security Coordination Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office, Singapore. The mission of NSSP is to study the "Singapore model" of national security in depth, to discern the ways in which the country addresses diverse national security challenges, with a view to generating insights pertinent for small, globalised, multi-ethnic city-states.

Science and Technology Studies Programme (STSP)

STSP looks into emerging science and technology trends and their impact on national security and public policymaking. With support from the Ministry of Home Affairs, STSP is focused on unpacking the latest science and technology issues to help strengthen the state's capacity to respond to them. Launched on 1 October 2017, STSP conducts rigorous academic research on emerging science and technology trends, publishes them in high impact journals, and facilitates knowledge-sharing on issues relevant to this domain.

Board of Governors

As at end November 2020

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



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Majid Khadduri Professor of Middle East
and International Affairs,
School of Advanced International Studies,
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Professor of International
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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
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Ministry of Home Affairs



Professor Sir Steve Smith

Vice-Chancellor and
Chief Executive,
University of Exeter



Mr Peter Varghese AO

Chancellor,
The University of Queensland



Ms Chew Gek Khim

Executive Chairman,
The Straits Trading Company Limited



Professor Er Meng Hwa

Professor, School of Electrical and
Electronic Engineering,
Nanyang Technological University,
Singapore



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

Honours and Awards



Sources of Small States' Influence in International Economic Negotiations

Asst Prof Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, Deputy Head of the Centre for Multilateralism Studies, has received the Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1 grant of \$84,705.91 for a 36-month study which investigates the sources of small states' influence in international economic negotiations. It also introduces a new way of conceptualising small states' power in the context of international negotiations. It employs Asia-focused case studies of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, and in reference to Asian small states such as Singapore and Bahrain.

The Political Dynamics of US Trade Policy

Asst Prof Lee Su-Hyun, Coordinator of the MSc (International Political Economy) Programme at RSIS, has received the MOE AcRF Tier 1 grant of \$27,840 for a research project titled "The Political Dynamics of Protectionism: Origins and Consequences." The project focuses on a book manuscript on American trade policy that examines how incumbent presidents and their parties strategically set trade policy for electoral and partisan goals, and to what extent the distributional consequences of trade affect voting behaviour in US presidential elections. As extensions, the project analyses how trade competition from low income countries, especially from China, has affected the rise of populism and anti-globalisation backlash in advanced industrial countries.



Establishing Framework for Civilian Nuclear Governance in the Asia Pacific

Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre (Principal Investigator); and Mr Julius Trajano, Research Fellow (Collaborator) of the same centre, have received the MOE AcRF Tier 1 grant of \$67,410 for a 25-month research project titled "Nuclear Governance in Indo/Asia Pacific: Building out from Southeast Asia." The project explores pathways towards building a robust framework for civilian nuclear governance in the Asia Pacific, building out from the nuclear cooperation framework and progress in Southeast Asia. It identifies and argues

for the relevance of ASEAN-led mechanisms to deal with nuclear security in Southeast Asia and the broader Asia-Pacific region. It analyses the prospects for and emerging challenges to enhancing regional nuclear governance, covering three key issues: (i) nuclear security capacity-building; (ii) the role of nuclear governance centres of excellence and knowledge centres; and (iii) nuclear emergency preparedness and response.

ASEAN's Utilisation of Digital Technology for Food Security

Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre (Principal Investigator); Prof Paul S. Teng, Adjunct Senior Fellow (Principal Investigator); and Mr Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros, Associate Research Fellow, all from the same Centre, have received a USD 30,000 grant from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), to review ASEAN Member States' utilisation of digital technology for improving agricultural productivity and enhancing the resilience of food supply chains. It seeks to propose future directions and a potential roadmap that feeds into ASEAN's guidelines for digital agriculture adoption, covering topics such as information and communication technology (ICT) policy; trade policy; e-commerce platforms; digital financing for inclusive development; and food supply chain resilience.



(L-R) Mr Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros, Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, and Prof Paul Teng

China and its Closest Strategic Allies

Asst Prof Hoo Tiang Boon, Coordinator of the MSc (Asian Studies) Programme at RSIS, has received the MOE AcRF Tier 1 grant of \$79,730 for a research project titled "Inner Circle: A Study of China's Relations with its Closest Strategic Allies." This project seeks to better understand the nature and substance of China's relationship with its closest strategic allies in global politics. In particular, it investigates two key puzzles: Who are China's closest strategic allies in global politics, and what is the extent of these countries' alignment with China? Conceptually, the project introduces the notion of the "strategic inner circle" to distinguish China's closest allies, and addresses limitations in existing concepts such as security alliances, military coalitions, clients, and formal partnerships.



Highlights of the Year



**Some of these events were held before the COVID-19 safe distancing measures were put in place.*

Conferences, Workshops, and other Networking Events

During the year, RSIS staff continued to research into their respective areas of expertise, and shared their findings and insights through RSIS publications and external publications. In particular, RSIS faculty and researchers studied and analysed how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted food security, cybersecurity, terrorism, and human security. RSIS started a special series “Global Health Security: COVID-19 and its Impacts” under the RSIS Commentary. RSIS scholars also published peer-reviewed books on their areas of research and op-eds in other publications. In the May 2020 paper published by the US Council on Foreign Relations (titled “Challenges of Global Governance Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic”), RSIS contributed a chapter on “COVID-19 and Global Governance: Waking Up to a Safe New World”. Two relevant Policy Reports: “Building Critical Supply Chain Resilience in the Wake of COVID-19” and “Living with Uncertainty: A Whole-of-Society Approach to Pandemics”, were also published.

COVID-19 and its impacts have also been covered in RSIS webinars, which were available even to those overseas as well as enabling overseas speakers to participate from their home countries. Due to the imposition of

travel restrictions, safe distancing, and other measures, a number of flagship programmes were deferred. The 14th edition of the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO) and the 22nd edition of the flagship Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) were deferred to 2021. They are usually held in April and July/August respectively. The 13th run of the Terrorism Analyst Training Course, and the 6th SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium, earlier scheduled for March and April respectively, were also deferred to 2021.

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 Singapore, represented by Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, remains the ASEAN Co-Chair of CSCAP for a two-year term until mid-2021. CSCAP Singapore and US CSCAP co-organised the ninth CSCAP Nuclear Energy Experts Group (NEEG) meeting in February. The participants deliberated on the current and emerging issues in nuclear safety, security, and non-proliferation in the region. It was emphasised that while the overall global nuclear governance remains bleak with lack of progress in moving forward the implementation and review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the achievements made in the Asia Pacific region pertaining to strengthening the governance of civilian uses of nuclear technology, in the form of nuclear energy

and peaceful applications of radioactive material is noteworthy. In addition, participants discussed the potential impact of new and emerging technologies – such as cyber technology, artificial intelligence, and small modular reactors – on nuclear governance. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, CSCAP activities such as its biannual Steering Committee Meeting and its other Study Group meetings have been scheduled to be convened online instead. CSCAP Singapore is a co-chair of the CSCAP Study Group on International Law and Cyberspace, which is planning to conduct its next meeting online. CSCAP Singapore is also working together with Australia CSCAP and other CSCAP member committees to launch a new Study Group on the issue of Rules-Based Order in the region.

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 ADMM with relevant inputs 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 13 years, NADI members have participated in their own personal capacities to think beyond their respective governments' positions. NADI has contributed forward-looking ideas and policy recommendations that are useful and relevant to the ADMM track, with the ADMM expressing its appreciation for NADI's work.

The 13th NADI Annual Meeting on "Defence Cooperation for a Cohesive and Resilient ASEAN in Response to Regional Geopolitical Change", as well as the 5th NADI Retreat, proceeded from 2 to 6 Mar in Da Nang, Vietnam. They were organised by the Institute for Defence Strategy (IDS), Ministry of National Defence of Vietnam. During the 13th Annual Meeting, there was general agreement among the delegates that ASEAN centrality must be maintained amid shifting geopolitical and emerging security threats. On top of sharing their respective country's perspectives on these issues, NADI delegates also saw the COVID-19 pandemic as a major security threat that ASEAN countries must address. The delegates provided recommendations for the consideration of the ADMM, to work to deepen mutual understanding through Track 1.5 and Track 2 engagements; to encourage greater linkages across sectors pertaining to cross-cutting issues; to improve existing mechanisms to include emerging security issues as seen with COVID-19; to consider offering assistance to ASEAN Dialogue Partners during disasters; and to further strengthen existing cooperation with Plus countries in building human resource capacity and expertise, information exchange and coordination. NADI workshops planned for 2020 have been deferred due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

CONSORTIUM OF NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

RSIS is also the Secretariat of 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 staffs the secretariat. The NTS-Asia Consortium brought together senior officials and prominent scholars across Asia to discuss the economic fallout caused by the pandemic and ways to sustain development at a webinar on 5 August 2020.

RSIS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURES

RSIS visiting scholars and other eminent speakers gave Distinguished Public Lectures during the year. Among them were RSIS Board of Governors members Professor Michael E. Brown and Professor Bates Gill; and Dr Parag Khanna, who gave the Ngee Ann Kongsi Distinguished Public Lecture. They spoke on a range of topical issues covering US foreign policy and Asian leadership.



Prof Michael E. Brown, Professor of International Affairs and Political Science at the Elliot School of International Affairs, the George Washington University, addressing the audience during the Distinguished Public Dialogue with Dr Bates Gill, Professor of Asia-Pacific Security Studies at Macquarie University (left), moderated by Dr Adam Garfinkle, 9 January.

More information on RSIS Public Lectures is in Annex D.

RSIS-SCSPI

RSIS' Maritime Security Programme and the South China Sea Strategic Probing Initiative (SCSPI) of the Peking University Institute of Ocean Research conducted a joint roundtable on "Recent Developments in the South China Sea" on 13 January 2020 at the Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium. The Chinese delegation was led by Prof Hu Bo, Director of the Center for Maritime Strategy and Director of SCSPI, Peking University. More than 20 participants from RSIS and other local think tanks participated in the roundtable.

The first part of the roundtable featured presentations by Dr Tang Siew Mun, Head, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, and Assoc Prof Lei Xiaolu, China Institute of Boundary and Ocean Studies, Wuhan University. They shared the ASEAN and Chinese perspective on the ongoing negotiations for the South China Sea Code of Conduct (COC).



Participants of the RSIS-SCSPI Roundtable on "Recent Developments in the South China Sea", 13 January 2020

This was followed with presentations by Dr Cao Qun, Associate Research Fellow, Center for Maritime Security and Cooperation, China Institute of International Studies, and Dr Collin Koh, Research Fellow and Coordinator of the United States Programme, IDSS. Both speakers shared their perspectives on the challenges that regional navies and law enforcement agencies face in enforcing maritime rules and norms in regional waters.

The roundtable ended with an open discussion, which provided an opportunity for speakers and participants to exchange their views on the latest developments in the South China Sea and their impact on regional maritime security.



Participants of the 2020 edition of the annual conference "Regional Maritime Security Outlook 2020", 14-15 January 2020

REGIONAL MARSEC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

The Maritime Security Programme held its annual flagship conference, "Regional Maritime Security Outlook 2020", on 14 and 15 January 2020 at the Holiday Inn Atrium Singapore. Over two dozen experts and practitioners participated in the event.

The conference opened with Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Till setting the scene with broad trends in the regional security environment and the future of conflict and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Opening remarks were followed by panellists providing their outlook on major powers and regional actors' maritime security strategies, priorities, capacities, and challenges. The first day concluded with a well-timed discussion on the growing congestion of the shared maritime space in the South China Sea – especially the rationale for and regional perceptions on European navies presence in the region's waters.

The second day of the conference focused on more specific maritime security issues. This year's focus was on the new frontline of maritime cooperation and conflict, the maritime law-enforcement agencies, and the maritime militia as part of state's comprehensive maritime security strategy. The two panels brought forth important insights into the roles and legal jurisdiction of the two maritime paramilitary forces.

The conference concluded with a lively roundtable discussion looking at the future of conflict and cooperation in the shared maritime domain.

NUCLEAR ENERGY EXPERTS GROUP MEETING

Work continued in the nuclear energy area with the “Annual Meeting of the Nuclear Energy Experts Group (NEEG) of CSCAP” convened by NTS Centre and the Pacific Forum in February. Around 35 nuclear governance experts from the Asia-Pacific region came together for the annual meeting of the Nuclear Energy Experts Group of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) on 6 and 7 February. The meeting deliberated on current and emerging issues in nuclear safety, security, and non-proliferation in the region.



Mr Kwa Chong Guan, Senior Fellow at RSIS, and Co-Chair of CSCAP Singapore, giving a presentation at the Nuclear Energy Experts Group Meeting, 6-7 February 2020

ICPVTR WEBINAR ON “UNDERSTANDING INCELS: ANGRY YOUNG MEN OR TERRORIST MOVEMENT?”

There are increasingly serious incidents of violence committed by young men predominantly in the United States and Canada who self-identify as incels (involuntary celibates). Although the incel worldview is not obviously political, its core ethos entails the subjugation and repression of a group and its violence is designed to have far-reaching societal effects. ICPVTR held a panel webinar on 5 August to discuss the motivation of incels and if they are an emerging trend in terrorism. World renowned terrorism expert Prof Bruce Hoffman of the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and Mr Jacob Ware, Research Associate for Counterterrorism at the Council on Foreign Relations, provided a detailed overview of the group and its evolution.



Dr Adam Garfinkle, speaker of the RSIS three-part webinar series on COVID-19 in May 2020

RSIS WEBINAR SERIES ON COVID-19 AND OTHER TOPICS

The onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic caught the world by surprise. In May, a three-part webinar series by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow, discussed the impact of the crisis on global economies, social, political, and geostrategic relations. Dr Garfinkle also spoke on other topics, including US policy toward Korea, the evolving US-China technological competition, and Islamist Terrorism.

ICPVTR WEBINAR ON “COVID-19 AND THE EVOLVING TERRORIST THREAT: CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE”

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all aspects of life, including politics, health, security, and economies. Terrorist groups across the ideological spectrum have intensified their online propaganda to increase recruitment and plan new attacks. The International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) discussed in a webinar on 18 May how the global terrorist landscape will evolve in the post-COVID-19 scenario as well as how the challenge of the coronavirus will impact counter-terrorism policies and practices in different parts of Southeast Asia and the world.



Mr Raffaello Pantucci, Senior Fellow with ICPVTR, speaking during the ICPVTR Webinar on “COVID-19 and the Evolving Terrorist Threat: Challenge and Response”



“The concert of global voices to address inequality and injustice has grown louder with a desire to achieve real change. No platitudes. No side-steps. As a community we must walk steadfastly to strengthen cohesion, harmony and unity. Humanity continues to confront challenges across borders, ethnicities and religions. Tolerance is only the first step. We will need to work towards not just acceptance of others but understanding each other. In embracing diversity, we will discover the strength that will help build a better future.”

By Jolene Jerard and Amanda Huan, RSIS

RSIS-WSPC BOOK LAUNCH

RSIS and World Scientific Publishing Company (WSPC) jointly launched the book titled *Faith, Identity, Cohesion: Building a Better Future*. Edited by RSIS, it was a compilation of the discussions on ways of forging interfaith understanding and social cohesion during the International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS). This conference, mooted by President Halimah Yacob, was successfully organised by RSIS in June 2019. It provided the platform for discussion on ways of forging interfaith understanding and social cohesion. The edited book was launched on Racial Harmony Day on 21 July 2020. The book sought to continue the conversations and deliberations at ICCS. The three themes of the ICCS, namely, Faith, Identity, and Cohesion, stimulated significant discussions on the need for mutual respect, trust, and understanding of each other’s beliefs and cultures. Many ideas on the ways forward were raised and further discourse would be necessary.

CENS WEBINAR SERIES ON “AGE OF RAGES: NATIONALISMS”

In this five-part series webinar on “Age of Rages: Nationalisms”, CENS gathered a line of eminent speakers to explore the nuances and the concept of nationalism. The series began on 19 May with “Nationalisms in Hong Kong and China”, featuring speakers Assoc Prof Chan Chi Kit of the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, and Dr Florian Schneider, Senior University Lecturer at Leiden University, as well as Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang, Coordinator of the China Programme at IDSS, as discussant. Assoc Prof Chan explored the potential of “stateless nationalism” to capture the dynamism of Hong Kong’s calls for political independence, while Dr Schneider drew attention the role of technology in the development and distribution of Chinese nationalist narratives. Assoc Prof Li emphasised that nationalism has become part of the Chinese social structure.

During the second webinar on “Nationalism and the Far Right” on 2 June, Assoc Prof Daphne Halikiopoulou of the University of Reading, shared how far-right parties in Europe use civic nationalist discourse to broaden their mainstream appeal. Speaking on a different element of far-right discourse, Assoc Prof Bernhard Forchtner of the University of Leicester, explored the intersection of environmental and far-right narratives. The discussant, Assoc Prof George Hawley of the University of Alabama exposed nuanced differences between far-right movements in the US and Europe.

On 16 June, the third of the series saw Prof Manjari Katju from the University of Hyderabad, and Prof Mahinda Deegalle from Bath Spa University, as speakers on the topic of “Nationalisms and Religion”. Both spoke on the rise of religious nationalisms in South Asia, with Prof Katju focusing on Hindutva in India, and Prof Deegalle

discussing Sinhā’lē’ in Sri Lanka. The discussant, Dr Ronojoy Sen, Senior Research Fellow at the National University of Singapore, concluded the webinar by delving into the origins of Hindutva and its role in mainstream politics today.

Titled “Civic Nationalism and the Challenges of Integration”, the fourth session on 14 July featured Dr Geoffrey Brahm Levey, Associate Professor of Political Science and Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of New South Wales; and Dr Christian Joppke, Chair in Sociology, University of Bern; as speakers. Dr Levey highlighted the need to distinguish not only ethnic and civic nationalisms — the classic distinction — but also cultural nationalism from ethnic nationalism, and liberal nationalism from civic nationalism. Dr Joppke focused his presentation on neoliberal nationalism as key to understanding modern citizenship – making citizenship harder to acquire and easier to lose. Dr Halikiopoulou concluded by emphasising the need to account for nationalisms as dynamic, with states and actors driving particular narratives of nationalisms to justify their political positions.

In the final webinar titled “Whither Civic Nationalism in South Asia?” on 11 August, keynote speaker Dr Neil DeVotta, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Wake Forest University, North Carolina, focused on recent Sinhalese Buddhist nationalism in Sri Lanka and Hindutva in India, and argued for civic nationalism as an antidote to the proliferation of ethno-religious nationalisms in South Asia. The discussion acknowledged the difficulties in implementing a civic nationalist state but agreed that that civic nationalism can serve to support equal treatment.



First webinar in the “Age of Rages: Nationalisms” series on “Nationalisms in Hong Kong and China”, 19 May 2020



ADF-RSIS DISTINGUISHED VIRTUAL FORUM

The Antalya Diplomacy Forum and RSIS co-hosted a virtual forum on “Leveraging the Effects of the Pandemic Towards Regional Cooperation in Asia” to discuss how Asian decision-makers should enhance cooperation to draw a roadmap for and further normalisation and recovery. Held on 28 July, speakers included His Excellency Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Turkey; His Excellency Ceyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijan; His Excellency Suzuki Keisuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan; Her Excellency Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; His Excellency Dr Pornchai Danvivathana, Secretary-General, Asia Cooperation Dialogue; and His Excellency Bambang Susantono, Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asia Development Bank.

The forum was co-moderated by Amb Murat Karagöz, Director General of Information, and Co-Chair, Antalya Diplomacy Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey; and Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS. Amb Ong summarised the discussion with three keywords: action, balance, and commitment. They referred to Action to carry through the recommendations; Balance to offer equal effort for ongoing initiatives and tackling immediate threats; and Commitment or conviction for following through with multilateralism; as a guide for the way forward.

CENS WEBINAR SERIES ON “DRUMS: DISTORTIONS, RUMOURS, UNTRUTHS, MISINFORMATION & SMEARS”

Organised by CENS, a three-part webinar series themed “DRUMS: Distortions, Rumours, Untruths, Misinformation and Smears” was held on 1, 2 and 4 December 2020. CENS has been organising such conferences since 2017 following revelations of information manipulation and social media weaponisation worldwide in politics and elections, influence operations, and hybrid conflicts. #DRUMS2020 brought together a selection of speakers who are researchers, practitioners, and private sector experts from Asia, Europe, and North America who specialise in analysing and addressing these issues.

Webinar One examined how online misinformation and disinformation from domestic and foreign actors continue to be a problem for social peace, political discourse, and recent elections in various countries. Webinar Two examined how the infodemic continues to undermine national and international efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and feature in conspiracies that drive misinformation. Webinar Three discussed how the media and journalists, digital advertisements, and influencer culture have roles in propagating as well as countering misinformation. Participants took away from the webinar series insights on the latest misinformation trends and countermeasures that shaped the year 2020 as the world struggles with the “new normal”.

RSAP VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ON “REGIONAL MULTILATERALISM IN UNCERTAIN TIMES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE”

The Regional Security Architecture Programme (RSAP) at IDSS held a virtual workshop on 10 and 11 December that examined the past, present, and future of multilateral defence and security cooperation in the region. While mechanisms such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM), ADMM-Plus, ASEAN Regional Forum, and East Asia Summit have been significant in strengthening regional peace and stability, they have continued to face persistent challenges that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Indo-Pacific debate. Given this context, the workshop brought together a group of experts to discuss the development of the regional security architecture thus far, evaluate the ways that existing ASEAN-centric mechanisms have sought to overcome their challenges, as well as explore the potential for ASEAN to maintain its unity, relevance, and centrality in the region. The workshop also delved into what the next phase of security and defence diplomacy might look like in a (post-) COVID world.



Dr Olaf Wientzek, Geneva Office Director for Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, during the webinar on “WTO: Between COVID, Reform Debate and a New Leadership”, 14 August 2020

RSIS WEBINAR SERIES ON MULTILATERALISM STUDIES BY DR OLAF WIENZTEK

The past few years have seen an uptick in economic nationalism and protectionism, along with greater politicisation and deadlock of the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) processes. In a webinar titled “WTO: Between COVID, Reform Debate and a New Leadership” on 14 August, Dr Olaf Wientzek, Geneva Office Director for Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, spoke on the WTO’s current state of play. He concluded the session saying that ultimately, an excellent Director-General can only do so much if WTO members refuse to cooperate. Countries should continue to defend multilateralism by playing constructive roles in the ongoing WTO Joint Initiatives, such as on e-commerce, and sending good representatives to the WTO.

CMS THREE-PART WEBINAR SERIES ON “ASEAN’S OUTLOOK ON THE INDO-PACIFIC, COVID-19 AND THE FUTURE OF ASEAN CENTRALITY”



CMS Three-part Webinar Series from 4-6 August 2020

The growing tussle of great power influence led the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to develop its Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) in 2019. Amidst competing visions for the Indo-Pacific, AOIP added to the Indo-Pacific debate by reiterating the need for an inclusive and cooperative multilateral framework. In a three-part webinar series from 4 to 6 August, CMS brought together panellists from the region to discuss the nexus between ASEAN’s Indo-Pacific narrative, ASEAN-led mechanisms, and a post-COVID-19 world which stands to further escalate Sino-US tensions.

The first webinar focused on the topic of “Multilateralism after COVID-19” where panellists highlighted that COVID-19 is as much a local crisis as it is global, and that multilateral mechanisms are among the first casualties. In the second webinar on “ASEAN and the AOIP – The Role of Multilateralism and Defence Diplomacy”, panellists addressed the evolving Indo-Pacific concept and its variants put forward by Australia, Japan, India, and the United States. Panellists in the third and final webinar on “ASEAN Centrality in the Indo-Pacific: Forecasting Trajectories” concluded that as ASEAN faces increasing pressure to choose sides, ASEAN and its members could engage in “issue-based multilateralism” or “strategic tilting”.



RSIS Panel Webinar on "Why the Pakatan Harapan Government Fell and the Coalition's Prospects for GE15", 4 September 2020

MALAYSIA PROGRAMME WEBINARS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN MALAYSIA'S SOCIETY, POLITICS AND ECONOMY

Since 2018, Malaysia has witnessed two historic changes in government. The Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition made history by defeating Barisan Nasional (BN) in Malaysia's 14th General Election (GE14), thereby ending BN's 61-year rule in government. 22 months after, PH fell due to internal divisions within the coalition, and was succeeded by the Perikatan Nasional (PN) government led by Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin. RSIS Malaysia Programme held several events featuring prominent Malaysian speakers to help participants understand the dramatic developments in Malaysia's society, politics and economy.

Most recently, it held three webinars. The first on 4 June, titled "UMNO at a Crossroads: Implications for Malaysian Politics," featured Dr Hamidin Abd Hamid, Associate Professor of University Malaysia, and Research Fellow of ILHAM Centre, Malaysia; and Dato' Mazri Muhammad, Political Communication Consultant, and former Special Officer to the sixth Prime Minister of Malaysia. The two provided their insights on how UMNO pivoted and shifted strategies, post-GE14 and spoke on UMNO's strategic partnership with PAS to pursue an ethno-religious agenda aimed at securing the support of an overwhelming majority of Malaysian Malays.

The second webinar on 4 September, titled "Why the Pakatan Harapan Government Fell and the Coalition's Prospects for GE15," featured Mr Nik Nazmi bin Nik

Ahmad, Parti Keadilan Rakyat Member of Parliament for Setiawangsa, and Chairman of the Parliament Special Select Committee on Defence and Home Affairs; and Mr Jahabar Sadiq, Chief Executive Officer and Editor of The Malaysian Insight. Mr Nik Nazmi provided an insider's view of the coalition's structural, leadership, and ideological challenges in the lead-up to the Sheraton Move, while Mr Jahabar stressed that the coalition must become more policy-oriented rather than personality-driven if it is to stand a chance in the next general election.

The third webinar on 8 October was titled "Malaysia's Interests in the South China Sea" and featured Mr Shahrizan Lockman, Fellow in the Foreign Policy and Security Studies Division of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia; Dr Lai Yew Meng, Associate Professor at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Prof Dato' Dr B.A. Hamzah, lecturer on strategic studies and sea power at the National Defence University of Malaysia; with Dr Collin Koh, Research Fellow with the US Programme at IDSS. The webinar provided an overview of Malaysia's approach on recent developments in the South China Sea (SCS), identifying Malaysia's perspectives and policies in dealing with the SCS issue. The panel also identified Malaysia's economic interests - oil and gas deposits and fish stocks in the sea - and discussed its geo-political interest of remaining neutral in the US-China rivalry playing out in the region.

INDONESIA PROGRAMME WEBINARS ON INDONESIA'S MILITARY AND CIVIL CHALLENGES

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) was in the process of modernising its force structure under the Minimum Essential Force (MEF) programme. However, the devastating socioeconomic impact of the pandemic has (i) hurt economic growth and reduced available government revenues needed to fund military modernisation; and (ii) accelerated trends relating to the expansion of the TNI's non-military ambit. Organised by the Indonesia Programme at IDSS, the webinar on 1 October, titled "TNI Beyond 2024: Between Reform, Modernisation, and Regional Security Challenges", examined the influence of military modernisation towards military reform and future modernisation agenda of the TNI. The modernisation plan has been paramount in maintaining professionalisation of the military. With regard to the future roadmap for TNI capability development, the Indonesian Ministry of Defence plans to extend TNI modernisation plan post-MEF, which is dubbed as the Essential Force. Speakers of the webinar included Major General Dr Rodon Pedrason, Director-General of Defence Strategy of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Indonesia; and Dr Shiskha Prabawaningtyas, Director of the Graduate School of Diplomacy of Paramadina University.

Since President Joko Widodo's second term began in October 2019, political friction has developed between his administration, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), and Muhammadiyah. The Indonesia Programme at IDSS discussed the relationship between NU and Muhammadiyah in a webinar titled "Islamic Civil Society in Indonesia during Jokowi's Second Term" on 20 October. Featuring speakers from each organisation - Kyai Haji Yahya Cholil Staquf, General Secretary of the Clerical Advisory Council, NU; and Prof Abdul Mu'ti, General Secretary of Muhammadiyah - Dr Irman Lanti, Political Science Programme lecturer from National University, Jakarta, rounded up the session. Both NU and Muhammadiyah believe religious tolerance and pluralism are key ingredients to retain Indonesia as a plural and diverse society. With conservative Islamists becoming legitimate actors within the Indonesian politics and society, the Indonesian Government and moderate Muslim groups should utilise democratic strategies to check the popular appeal of these groups instead of trying to suppress them. The Indonesian Government needs to recognise that these groups are part of the Indonesian society just like any other societal groups.



CSIS-GRIPS-RSIS JOINT WEBINARS

Amidst the ongoing global challenges such as the United States-China strategic rivalry, the COVID-19 pandemic has further heightened the need for cooperation amongst countries in the Indo-Pacific. On 28 July, Dr Marty Natalegawa, former Indonesian Foreign Minister, spoke on the need to redefine multilateralism to involve the government, business, NGOs, academia, and think tanks. This inaugural joint webinar, part of a series of three webinars by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Jakarta, the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, and RSIS, was attended by more than 300 participants from across the world. Titled "Post-Pandemic Indo-Pacific: Prospect for Regional Cooperation", Dr Marty focused on the geo-political ramifications of the pandemic. Mr Jusuf Wanandi, Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, CSIS Foundation, Amb Yutaka Iimura, Senior Fellow, GRIPS Alliance, and Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, delivered opening remarks, while Dr Philips Vermonte, Executive Director, CSIS, moderated the session.

In the second part of the three-part series on 18 August, Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre, shared her observations about the challenges posed by the pandemic. Moderated by Mr Kwa Chong Guan, Senior Fellow at RSIS, the webinar was titled "COVID-19 in Asia: Navigating Geopolitical Risks and Unprecedented Disruptions". Prof Mely said that ASEAN could work with global alliances on vaccine access, strengthen its institutional and indigenous research and production capacities to ensure access based on health criteria rather than the wealth of the recipients. Dr Philips Vermonte, Executive Director of CSIS, said that the ASEAN-WHO partnership could be enhanced so countries that need the critical medical supplies would receive them, and that we need to revive trust in information – good information, responsible, and

evidence-based information. In his concluding remarks, Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, urged the participants to consider looking to Japan in the path to vaccine multilateralism, where Japan could be the voice to lead ASEAN to combat COVID-19 global pandemic together.

In the final part of the series on 10 September, Prof Shujiro Urata, Professor Emeritus of Waseda University, spoke on the topic "Strengthening Resilience of Supply Chains in the Indo-Pacific Region - Towards Economic Growth in the Post-Pandemic Era". Prof Akihiko Tanaka, President of GRIPS, gave the opening remarks. Dr Yose Rizal Damuri, Head of Department of Economics at CSIS; and Asst Prof Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, Deputy Head of CMS at RSIS; offered some comments and responses in the discussion that was moderated by Prof Narushige Michishita, Vice President of GRIPS. Prof Urata observed that the COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in supply and demand shocks around the world. Panellists agreed with the importance of diversification, and highlighted that both governments and businesses should act promptly to prepare themselves for the new economic conditions in a post-pandemic world. The discussion also touched upon India's potential role in regional supply chains. As a key country in realising the Free and Open Indo-Pacific, it would be important for India to remain engaged with the region and its activities.

On 3 December, CSIS, GRIPS, and RSIS jointly hosted another webinar titled "The US Presidential Election and the Implication to the East Asian Region". This webinar is the first of another series of webinars jointly hosted by CSIS, GRIPS, and RSIS after the previous series on regional security architecture, the increase in geopolitical risks, and supply chain resilience in the Indo-Pacific.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SECURITY COOPERATION BETWEEN GERMANY AND SINGAPORE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

The German Minister of Defence Ms Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer and Singapore Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen spoke at the online Ministerial Forum titled "The Indo-Pacific: Geostrategic Challenges and Opportunities for Germany and Singapore". During the Forum, Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer underscored the importance of the Indo-Pacific region to Germany and noted the eastward shift of the world's political and economic centre. She highlighted that Singapore is a crucial partner in the Indo-Pacific region and an important ally for multilateralism. She explained that Germany wants to be a reliable partner in shaping the international order by working with countries who share the same values and interests. Minister Ng welcomed Germany's stance in enhancing cooperation within the region. He highlighted key "deep currents" such as the shifting of US foreign policy, the rise of China, and terrorism, which in sum, called for the "re-working of multilateralism and global systems and institutions". The question and answer session further highlighted how Germany and ASEAN could work together to enhance cooperation, and also discussed the possible impact of the recent US presidential election results.

Held on 13 November 2020, the Ministerial Forum jointly organised by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and RSIS attracted over 200 participants on Zoom and more than 1,000 views on Facebook and Twitter. The Forum received favourable feedback from participants particularly from Germany, Singapore, and other Southeast Asian countries.

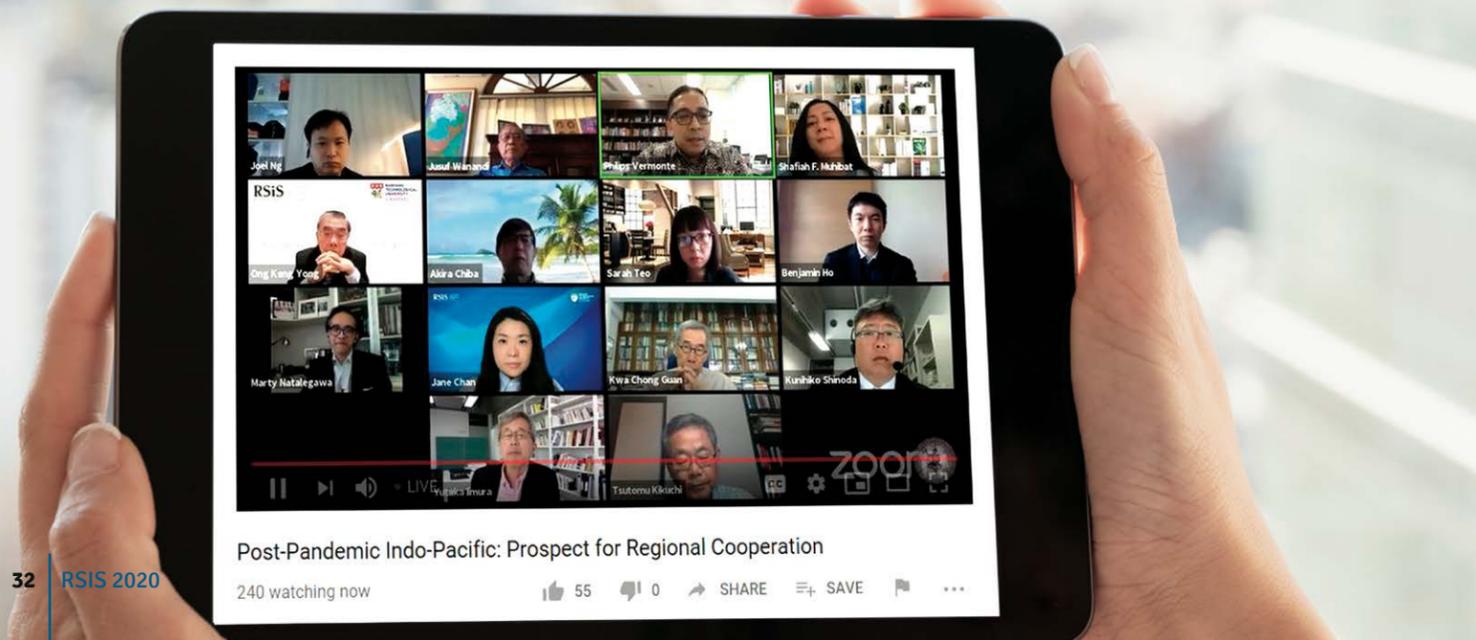


PODCAST: EFFECTS OF THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON SINGAPORE AND THE REGION

In a pre-election podcast recorded on 19 October, members of the United States Programme at IDSS – Dr Collin Koh, Dr Adrian Ang, Mr Chang Jun Yan, Ms Amanda Phua, and intern Ms Quek Xin Wei – discussed the 2020 US Presidential Elections and what it would mean for Singapore and the region. The 48-minute podcast examined the state of the horserace between President Donald Trump and the Democratic candidate, former Vice President Joe Biden. The analysis went on to discuss why Trump appeared not to enjoy any "incumbency advantage" and why the electoral environment is such a challenge for the president, as well as his flaws as a candidate.

Turning the attention closer to home, the US Programme team analysed how the election would impact Singapore and the region. The expectation was that regardless of who the winner would be, Sino-US competition is here to stay for the foreseeable future although a potential Biden administration might strive for a less strident tone and avoid a Cold War clash with Beijing. The podcast also examined possible US priorities over the next four years.

The pre-election podcast closed with the team's predictions and an analysis of some of the unique features of the 2020 election cycle from the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic.



2nd RSIS-SWP DIALOGUE

It is important for multilateral-minded states like Singapore and Germany to exchange views on how to navigate in a rapidly changing geopolitical world. This was the consensus by co-chairs of the second RSIS-Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) Dialogue held on 2 September 2020. Prof Dr Volker Perthes, then Director of SWP, and Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, chaired the virtual dialogue, addressing the contemporary topic of “International Politics and the Global Economy in the Post-pandemic World”.

The dialogue was split into two sessions, where the first focused on the topic of geopolitics and international relations. The panellists observed that the deterioration of the US-China relations, exacerbated by COVID-19 could lead to a structural world conflict with high economic and military risks. Panellists of the second session spoke from an economic viewpoint. They identified policy concerns that countries were grappling with from reinvigorating the economy, food, and health security, to the problems of societal inequality and informal/private sector during the crisis.

“ More than ever, likeminded partners like Singapore and Germany, the EU and ASEAN need to exchange views and – if possible – develop common ideas about how to navigate a rapidly changing geopolitical situation, to deal with a more assertive, sometimes aggressive, China, and to position ourselves in the strategic rivalry between China and the US. Beware of calling this a ‘new Cold War’: we might miss essential features of this new constellation – including the fact that states that don’t want to align with either side have considerably more weight in today’s international system than was the case during the Cold War. ”



Prof Dr Volker Perthes

Then Director, and Executive Chairman Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

“ Even as countries focus more on addressing domestic challenges during this period, we should not dismiss the importance of multilateralism and the global trading system. Interdependence remains a key feature of the international economy. ”



Amb Ong Keng Yong

Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS, and Director, IDSS

RSIS-AHA CENTRE WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY WEBINAR ON “HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING COVID-19”

How the region was coping with the threat of natural hazards in the midst of a global pandemic, was a question on the minds of many. In commemoration of World Humanitarian Day on 19 August, the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme at NTS Centre, and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), co-hosted a webinar on “Humanitarian Assistance in Southeast Asia during COVID-19”. The panel spoke on the prospects for national One-Stop Shops to facilitate the Government’s relations with local and national partners, to have a clear vision and goal, and actively engage the private sector and academia. Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre, welcomed the participants while Ms Adelina Kamal, Executive Director of AHA Centre, moderated the session. The panel included Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia on Public Health; Ms Carol Lee, Executive Director, Mercy Relief; Mr Masahiro Ishizeki, Head, International Programmes, Mercy Relief; and Dr Alistair D. B. Cook, Coordinator of the HADR Programme, NTS Centre.



Ms Adelina Kamal, Executive Director of AHA Centre, moderating the RSIS-AHA Centre World Humanitarian Day Webinar, 19 August 2020

The global scale of the COVID-19 pandemic has had huge effects on the humanitarian community. Challenges facing humanitarian action are compounded by simultaneous emergencies, unique features of infectious diseases, disrupted supplies of humanitarian items, and cuts to humanitarian funding to name some of the most salient. The outbreak has highlighted the need for the humanitarian sector to reconsider its future planning to be better prepared for a much more complex and uncertain future. The NTS Centre Panel Webinar on 3 June brought together speakers with different backgrounds related to humanitarian affairs to discuss “Humanitarian Futures in the Post-COVID-19 World” , focusing how the current COVID-19 experience will impact the future planning of the humanitarian sector.

NTS-ASIA WEBINAR ON “COVID-19 AND ECONOMIC CRISIS: MITIGATING IMPACT AND SUSTAINING DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA”

Cooperation amongst countries remain critical, and ever so during this pandemic. On 5 August 2020, the NTS-Asia Consortium organised a webinar on “COVID-19 and Economic Crisis: Mitigating Impact and Sustaining Development in Asia” to discuss the varied progress by countries in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Organised by the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) Indonesia in partnership with NTS Centre, the joint webinar deliberated how constraints at the national level can hamper effective measures. Speakers included Dr Julia Puspawati Tjaja, Director of ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate of the ASEAN Secretariat; Prof Miki Honda from Hosei University; Dr Jaehyon Lee from Asan Institute for Policy Studies; Dr Le Hong Hiep from ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute; Prof. Prijono Tjiptoherijanto from University of Indonesia; and Maj Gen (Ret.) Dipankar Banerjee from India.



Dr Julia Puspawati Tjaja, Director of ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate of the ASEAN Secretariat, Keynote Speaker of the NTS-Asia Webinar, 5 August 2020

Endowments and Endowed Professorships

When RSIS was inaugurated on 1 January 2007, a campaign to raise \$40 million (including dollar-for-dollar matching grants from the Singapore Government) for the RSIS Endowment Fund was initiated. The target was met, and the RSIS Endowment Fund was launched on 31 March 2008. Funds from this endowment are used 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.

RSIS has sponsors who have contributed grants to support the activities of the School over the years. They include the following:

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

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 utilise RSIS' research services.

RSIS endowment funds include provisions for four professorships. These professorships were 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.

We thank the sponsors for their generous donations and continuous support through the years.

S. RAJARATNAM PROFESSORSHIP IN STRATEGIC STUDIES

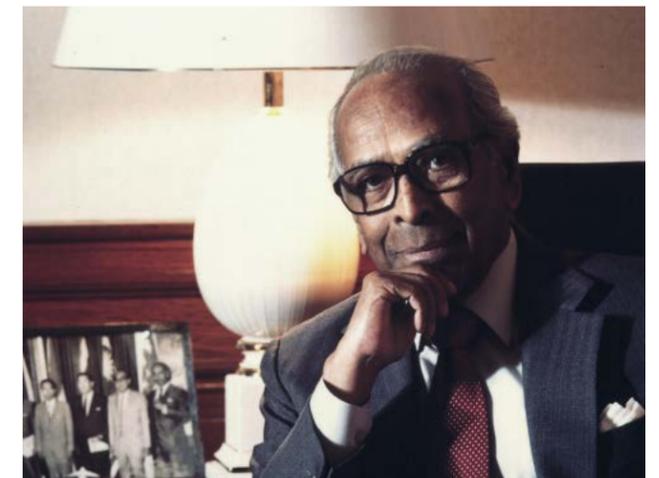
The S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies at RSIS was established in honour of Mr S. Rajaratnam's distinguished services to the nation. Inaugurated on 31 August 1998, the professorship brings on board distinguished scholars in strategic studies and related fields to participate in teaching 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 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 COVID-19 global pandemic travel restrictions in 2020, there was no visiting professor under the endowment. The scholar appointed to the prestigious S. Rajaratnam Chair in 2019 was Prof John L. Esposito, University Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies, Georgetown University.



Mr S. Rajaratnam

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 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.

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 Ngee Ann Kongsi began in the 1990s when the Kongsi donated \$1 million to the Chinese Heritage Centre located in NTU. In 2005, 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.

Dr Parag Khanna, Founder and Managing Partner of FutureMap, gave the Ngee Ann Kongsi Distinguished Public Lecture for 2020, on "Asian Leadership in the Post-Pandemic World".



Dr Parag Khanna

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 generous gift of \$3 million from Mr Peter Lim and a matching grant from the Singapore Government.



Prof Abdullah Saeed

Mr Lim, a well-known Singaporean philanthropist, hopes that his donation can bring together distinguished scholars and thought leaders to study how Singapore can further preserve and promote the existing harmonious 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.

The first scholar to hold this endowed chair is Prof Abdullah Saeed. Appointed on 15 October 2015, he holds this chair as Adviser to the SRP Programme until November 2021.

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 2020, there was no visiting professor under the endowment. The scholar who held this prestigious NTUC Chair in 2019 was Prof Andrew Walter, Professor of International Relations in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne.

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.

For the year 2020, there was no visiting professor under the endowment. The scholar invited to speak at the 2019 edition of the lecture was Dr Volker Perthes, then Executive Chairman and Director of SWP (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik), German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Germany.

Visiting Scholars

Professor Richard Hu

UM Development Foundation
Distinguished Fellow
Dean of Faculty of Social Science,
University of Macau
Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS
29 - 31 January 2020

Mr Koji Sekimizu

Former Secretary-General,
International Maritime
Organization (IMO)
RSIS-MPA Distinguished Visiting
Fellow
1 May 2016 - 30 April 2022

Ambassador Joseph Yun

Senior Advisor at The Asia Group,
and the U.S. Institute of Peace
Distinguished Visitor, RSIS
17 - 20 February 2020

Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)

The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (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.

IDSS is consistently ranked among the top regional think tanks. In addition to publishing academic and policy-oriented work, and hosting conferences and webinars, the various Programmes conduct regular briefings to government officials and other parties. The research agenda and activities of IDSS in 2020 were in accordance with the respective emphases of the programmes.

For the Major Powers, the **China team**, in addition to producing various policy-relevant deliverables, completed five special issues with *International Affairs*, *Asia Policy*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Marine Policy*, and *Water International*, and contracted two single-authored books with the Amsterdam University Press. The **US team** closely monitored developments regarding regional US defence and security policies, assessing their strategic ramifications on Singapore-US relations. The team also networked with US think tanks to promote Track 2 academic exchanges.

As for the Malaysia-Indonesia cluster, the **Malaysia team** focused on and published its findings on the historic 2018 General Election in Malaysia in book chapters and journals such as *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*. Two books were also published: *Pathways to Contemporary Islam: New Trends in Critical Engagement* (Amsterdam University Press), and *Malaysia's 14th General Election and UMNO's Fall: Intra-Elite Feuding in the Pursuit of Power* (Routledge). The team also invited Malaysian leaders to speak at its public events on contemporary issues related to Malaysian affairs. The **Indonesia team**

followed developments in the Indonesian military, counter-terrorism policy, and the role of religious power brokers in Indonesian politics. Besides a special issue of *Trans-National and -Regional Studies of Southeast Asia*, it also published three books with Routledge: *The 2018 and 2019 Indonesian Elections: Identity Politics and Regional Perspectives*; *Rising Islamic Conservatism in Indonesia: Islamic Groups and Identity Politics*; and *The Army and Ideology in Indonesia: From Dwifungsi to Bela Negara*.

The **Military Transformations Programme** produced academic articles and policy reports on emerging norms in the military applications of artificial intelligence (AI), as well as the role AI plays in the geopolitical competition between superpowers. Through workshops on these themes, it broadened interdisciplinary collaboration. The **Regional Security Architecture Programme** continued its focus on the evolving regional order and the institutional architectures in support of it, key regional powers and their impacts, and the rising phenomenon of minilateral security cooperation. In this regard, it published *Minilateralism in the Indo-Pacific: The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism, and ASEAN* (Routledge). It also organised a virtual workshop to discuss the development of the regional security architecture in a (post-)COVID region.

The **Maritime Security Programme** produced academic papers, policy reports, and commentaries on a broad spectrum of maritime security-related issues. It co-hosted the virtual edition of the annual Regional MARSEC Practitioners Course, a flagship maritime security capacity building event. Likewise, the **South Asia Programme** hosted over a dozen seminars and produced research across numerous formats. Amongst its publications, the most notable is *The Absent Dialogue: Politicians, Bureaucrats, and the Military in India* (Oxford University Press), which is a comprehensive study of civil-military relations in India.

Last but not least, the **Military Studies Programme** successfully transitioned its teaching online in 2020 due to constraints imposed by the novel coronavirus. Besides teaching, it also published its research in journals such as the *RUSI Journal* and *Joint Forces Quarterly*.

International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR)

The reorganisation of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) in 2019 was further cemented by the arrival of Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna as the new Head of the Centre in April 2020. He reiterated the need for academically rigorous and policy relevant research as the core of ICPVTR's analytical output to position itself as a leading counter-terrorism (CT), and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) research and outreach outfit in the Indo-Pacific region. In addition to ICPVTR's traditional areas of expertise in various aspects of terrorism and extremism in South East Asia and South Asia, a new research cluster was created to look into Emergent Global Trends.

During to the COVID-19 pandemic, ICPVTR held virtual forums and explored themes such as evolving trends in Islamist terrorism, and developments and implications of violent far-right and non-Islamist movements such as Hindu and Buddhism radicalism.

Publications and Research

Several ICPVTR researchers published in international journals such as *The New England Journal of Public Policy* (October 2020); *Pakistan Journal of Terrorism Research* (July 2020); and *Politics, Religion and Ideology* (Aug 2020).

The Centre also produced two substantive and well-received reports on Terrorism Financing in Southeast Asia and South Asia, which supplemented the Singapore Government's national assessment on its Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) efforts. These were followed up by other policy reports on Islamic State and Al Qaeda developments in Indonesia, the Philippines, and South Asia, in addition to pieces on outlier movements such as "sovereign citizens" and white supremacists.

ICPVTR also published shorter pieces on platforms such as *RSIS Commentary*, *The Diplomat*, *The Straits Times*, *TODAY*, and other local and foreign media platforms.

Experts' Networking

In mid-2020, ICPVTR was invited to join RESOLVE, a US-based global network of terrorism research institutes. ICPVTR was recognised as a key Southeast Asian node for providing authoritative regional analyses for the benefit of the RESOLVE network partners. Through the network, as well as participation in similar initiatives by the Global Centre for Co-operative Security in June and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum in April, ICPVTR further expanded its mindshare amongst American and European terrorism research circles. This was further reinforced through extensive participation of ICPVTR researchers who spoke at events by Oxford University's Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict (September), the Philippines-based SecurityMatters (August), and the Indonesia-based Aman Indonesia (October), amongst others.

ICPVTR also engaged in roundtable discussions with social media companies like Facebook and TikTok on extremist exploitation of the online space.

Capacity Building

While the annual Terrorism Analyst Training Course (TATC) was deferred to 2021 in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, ICPVTR continued its public outreach via online activities that attracted interest from local and foreign participants.

ICPVTR organised five public webinars between August and December 2020 on a range of extremism related topics such as Islamist terrorism in the UK, the implications of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan on regional jihadism, and the Incel movement. Aside from ICPVTR speakers, these webinars also featured external experts such as Lord John Alderdice, Prof Bruce Hoffman, Mr Ahmed Rashid, and Prof Amin Saikal, among others.

Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)

The Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) conducts academically rigorous policy-relevant research and analysis across a range of national security issues to raise the intellectual capital behind national security policy formulation. CENS contributes to, and keeps abreast of, research on national security matters within three research spheres: Radicalisation Studies, Social Resilience, and Cyber and Homeland Defence.

Year 2020 has been productive in terms of producing policy-relevant reports and publications, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic. CENS researchers have also continued to provide expert opinions to various media outlets on a slew of national security issues. One strength of CENS' research output stems from the deliberate pursuit of cross-programme collaboration, especially on issues such as disinformation and fake news, which requires input and expertise across social resilience and homeland defence clusters, as well as benefitting from insights from researchers examining polarisation and radicalisation.

The **Radicalisation Studies Programme (RSP)** conducted in-depth research on the state of violent extremism in Southeast Asia and beyond, including field research in the aftermath of the 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings. Nur Diyanah Anwar and Cameron Sumpter subsequently published an article on societal resilience following the attacks in the journal *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*. Joseph Franco published "Detecting Future 'Marawis'" in *Perspectives on Terrorism*, a result of ongoing efforts to develop early-warning indicators for outbreaks of violent extremism. Prominent international publications include Dr Shashi Jayakumar's "Deradicalisation in Singapore: Past, Present and Future" for the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation at King's College in London.

Race, religion, and nationalism were prominent research areas for the **Social Resilience Programme (SRP)** throughout the year. Dr Terri-Anne Teo called for striking a balance between nationalism and cosmopolitanism in the context of COVID-19 and published a co-edited volume titled *Postcolonial Governmentalities* (Rowman and Littlefield International). Nazneen Mohsina contributed various articles about Indian politics and religion to outlets including *Channel NewsAsia* and *South Asian Voices*. Addressing international and local issues, Yasmine Wong authored timely commentaries on the Black Lives Matter movement, the tension between control and trust in a pandemic climate, and the relationship between COVID-19 and Sinophobia in Singapore. A series of webinars titled "Age of Rages: Nationalisms" was also held with experts who spoke on a broad range of subjects from civic nationalism to the relationship between nationalism and the far right.

The **Cyber and Homeland Defence Programme (CHDP)** contributed commentaries on its impact on cybersecurity, government communications, technology-driven surveillance and social governance, robotics, and smart policing. CHDP also converted scheduled workshops into a series of online webinars, ranging from cyber threat information sharing to crisis communications. Leading up to Singapore's General Election 2020, CHDP wrote policy reports on foreign interference in election campaigns and proposed countermeasures. Other cyber issues in national security continued unabated, and CHDP researchers published book chapters, journal articles, and conference papers on data privacy, blockchain, technology and geopolitics, foreign interference and disinformation, cyber norms, and armed attack in the cyber domain.

CENS also contributed to the formation of a community of practice by organising several programme-level workshops held online. The "Age of Rages" Workshop by the SRP tackled both sectarian and non-sectarian sources of intolerance and rage. In the field of radicalisation studies, CENS' role in academic partnership for the Global Internet Forum on Countering Terrorism (GIFCT) has allowed the moved towards smaller, focused expert-level discussions. This partnership, the Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET; which CENS became a core member in 2020) saw CENS convening a policy-practitioner workshop on countering online radicalisation in Indonesia.

At the invitation of the Cybersecurity Agency of Singapore, CHDP conducted capacity-building training online for ASEAN government officials through the ASEAN-Singapore Cyber Centre of Excellence, as well as a webinar on "Technology Nationalism and its Impact of South East" for the Singapore International Cyber Week.

CENS continues to promote discussion on national security matters by inviting leading thinkers to Singapore through its Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP). Under the DVP, CENS hosted Dr Bruno Macaes in February 2020. Dr Bruno Macaes was the Europe Minister in Portugal from 2013 to 2015 and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington.

Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre)

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), as one of the pioneers of non-traditional security (NTS) studies and education in Asia, maintains cutting-edge research and informs policymakers on a range of NTS-related issues, and bridges research collaboration between partners and stakeholders across the region. Its analyses are shared through books, journal articles, policy reports, Op-Eds, media interviews, and participation in expert discussions (ASEAN, the Regional Consultative Group on United Nations Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific, 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 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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, contributed to The Challenges of Global Governance Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic paper series of the Council of Councils. In August, she was the keynote speaker at a webinar on "COVID-19 in Asia: Navigating Geopolitical Risks amid Unprecedented Disruptions", co-organised by RSIS, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Jakarta, and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) from Japan. The Centre also produced a series of publications, which examined the NTS challenges compounded by the pandemic and discussed how Asian countries could manage them, in addition to other academic and policy publications.

(continued on page 44)

RESEARCH AT CENTRES AND PROGRAMMES

(continued from page 43)

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme focused on developing projects into books, journal articles, and policy reports. The Programme hosted a webinar on “Humanitarian Assistance in Southeast Asia during COVID-19” in August, jointly with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). It continues to serve as knowledge partner for the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Focusing on climate mitigation, three issues of NTS Insight were published, examining low-carbon transitions in coal-producing countries, assessing climate action in post-pandemic Southeast Asia, and exploring alternative pathways to meet the 1.50C Paris target.

Food Security

Engaging in exploratory collaborations with public and private entities, researchers have developed the UrbanAgInvest tool (© NTU) that merges insights from crop science and financial dynamics in assessing the viability of importing foreign agricultural technologies to boost Singapore’s food self-sufficiency. The NTS Centre has also conducted research relevant to ASEAN-level food security, covering the importance of “pandemic proofing” food supply chains, with some recommended measures at the national and regional levels.

Marine Environmental Protection

The Marine Environmental Protection research project continued building its expertise in marine environmental security. The team was invited to join the webinar on “Science Diplomacy in the South China Sea” organised by the East-West Centre in September.

Nuclear Energy

The Centre co-organised the Nuclear Energy Experts Group of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific meeting on 6 and 7 February. Its study on nuclear security governance in ASEAN was presented at the International Atomic Energy Agency International Conference on Nuclear Security in Vienna, Austria on 11 February. The study, funded by the MOE Academic Research Fund Tier 1 Grant, was published in the International Journal of Nuclear Security.

Migration

The Centre’s research on migration has been focused on the protection of migrant domestic workers, irregular migrants, and women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Producing three RSIS commentaries and one issue of NTS Insight, the team evaluated the strengths and weaknesses in the pandemic response of Asian societies in protecting vulnerable groups. It engaged in a joint research project with the University of Queensland on this theme, and organised a webinar on “COVID-19 and its impacts on the Women of Southeast Asia” in June.

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.

The Centre’s research agenda includes international and global forms as well as expressions of cooperative multilateralism, mainly through the lens 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.

These include analysing developments in the ASEAN Economic Community; aspects of the China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) trajectory and infrastructure investment in Southeast Asia; the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation; the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership; the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership; and the International Monetary Fund.

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’ 2020 research outputs are reflected by published works examining various issues including the US-China trade dispute and how their evolving relations

will reshape the global order and create economic and diplomatic dilemmas for other countries; Japanese infrastructure investment in Southeast Asia; the possibility of a “BRI 2.0”; financial cooperation in East Asia and recommendations on realising the full growth potential of the region; ASEAN Dialogue Partners’ policies and their implications for the Mekong Subregion; and on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

Although the onset of COVID-19 aborted one of the CMS’ flagship events—the annual RSIS-WTO Parliamentary Workshop – CMS staff have produced a number of commentaries supplying a political economy perspective on the pandemic. Topics ranged from how trade regionalism would be displaced, supply chain security, to the manipulation of statistics to buttress social and economic stability.

Furthermore, CMS staged a webinar titled “ASEAN’s Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, COVID-19 and the Future of ASEAN Centrality” over three days to audiences based in Singapore and across East Asia. CMS also hosted several webinars on “China and Southeast Asia”, “COVID-19 and the World Economy”, a dual book launch webinar on “Critical Reflections on China’s Belt and Road Initiative and China’s Belt and Road Initiative: Impacts on Asia and Policy Agenda”, and another on Australia’s role in shaping the looming “Indo-Pacific” alignment.

The Centre actively held virtual consultations with the US, the UK, and New Zealand embassies, the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, the Australian Centre on China in the World, the CSIS and SWP think tanks, as well as the Malaysian Institute for Maritime Affairs, and the Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement. CMS staff were also interviewed by leading media outlets such as *The Straits Times*, *Voice of America*, the *Business Times*, *South China Morning Post*, *Lianhe Zaobao*, *Channel NewsAsia*, Channel U, and Vietnam National Television.

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

The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme continues to make notable contributions towards the development of thinking and discourse in the study of inter-religious relations in plural societies, particularly benefiting Singapore.

Disseminating Knowledge Beyond RSIS

The SRP Programme's objective is to share its academic resources with stakeholders of religious harmony in Singapore.

Conducting its 5th Executive Programme on the theme of "Conflict Prevention and Resolution in an Age of Violence" from 10 to 12 February 2020, the programme attracted over 40 participants from the public, religious, and community sectors. The eminent speakers included Prof Tatsushi Arai, UN Senior Mediation Advisor, and Professor of Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, SIT Graduate Institute Vermont; and Prof Chaiwat Satha Anand, Professor of Political Science, Thammasat University Bangkok.

An Annual Report on "Regional Trends in Interreligious Relations" was produced in 2019, which provided lessons that Singapore could learn from the experiences of other states in the strategic areas of religion, conflict, and peacebuilding.

The SRP Programme initiated a collaboration with the Inter-Religious Organisation and organised a public lecture to commemorate the latter's 70th Anniversary on 21 January 2020. Prof Abdullah Saeed, Adviser to SRP Programme, and the Peter Lim Professor of Peace Studies, delivered the lecture.

Building Capacity for Singapore's Interreligious Sector

In teaching at the MSc level for AY2019/2020, the SRP Programme offered eight courses to good response. A newly added course on "Asian Religions, Interreligious Relations and Conflict" now means the SRP Programme

offers MSc courses on all the major religions practised in Singapore.

Additionally, for AY2019/2020, 18 members of religious, community, and public service organisations participated in the Community Access Programme where they gained insights from the above courses without needing to register as students.

Research to Build Singapore's Interreligious Knowledge

The SRP Programme has started implementing its research plan for the next three years (2020-2023).

Seven research projects had been identified in the broad areas of interreligious relations in Singapore, interreligious conflicts and violence in Southeast Asia, Muslims and interreligious relations in plural societies, and the interreligious landscape/ecology in Singapore. Four of these seven research projects are in progress, with a collaboration between Assoc Prof Paul Hedges from the SRP Programme, and Prof Abdullah Saeed from the University of Melbourne, and concurrently 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" is funded by the Australian Research Council.

The SRP Programme also researched into "Islam, Exclusivity, and Inclusivity", and published 12 articles in the local vernacular newspaper. On top of that, Asst Prof Rafal Stepień's book *Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature* was published by State University of New York Press.

The SRP Programme's own peer-reviewed online journal titled *Interreligious Relations (IRR)* entered its second year with 20 published articles since its launch in April 2019. The series examines issues of religious diversity, religious contextualisation, religion-state interactions and religiously motivated violence and peacebuilding. The journal's editorial board comprise 25 scholars from around the world.

National Security Studies Programme (NSSP)

Generating intellectual capital and awareness of the milestone episodes in Singapore's diplomatic and 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 *RSIS Policy Reports*, *RSIS Commentary*, and the *Eurasia Review*, with topics ranging from the threat of foreign interference to right-wing extremism. NSSP researchers also contributed a chapter to the book *How to Prepare for the Next Pandemic: Behavioural Sciences Insights for Practitioners and Policymakers*, which is due to be published at the end of 2020 or in early 2021.

Education is also a significant aspect of NSSP's work. NSSP researchers shared insights with public officers at training courses organised by the Home Team Academy through its Home Team Leadership Programme. Additionally, NSSP organised two webinars on the topics of international relations and security challenges facing Singapore. On 25 September, NSSP's first by-invitation webinar on "*Konfrontasi - Key Lessons for Singapore*" featured Assoc Prof Bilveer Singh, Deputy Head of the Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore, and Adjunct Senior Fellow, Centre of Excellence for National Security, RSIS.

On 20 November, a closed-door webinar on "Intelligence Successes and Failures During Singapore's

Cold War Era: Lessons for Contemporary National Security Challenges" was held. Speakers at the session included Dr Roger C. Arditti, a full-time Metropolitan Senior Police Officer in London who specialises in Intelligence History and the Malayan Emergency; and Dr Alexander Nicholas Shaw, a historian of British foreign policy during the Cold War.

Due to COVID-19, NSSP had to postpone its overseas study trips in 2020. Nonetheless, to maintain its collective academic rigor, NSSP was still actively involved in regional and international scholarly platforms. Of note, NSSP continued its participation in the Centre for Resolution of Intractable Conflict (CRIC) Annual Conference that was held online from 21 to 23 September. Themed "Disruption and the Multi-lateral System After COVID-19", the CRIC Conference saw professionals from around the world engaging in thoughtful reflection and future planning in various areas of interest and concern.

NSSP researchers were also involved in outreach activities such as the 2020 cycle of the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Programme. The programme, jointly organised by the Gifted Education Branch, Ministry of Education, Singapore, and its partners from various tertiary institutions and organisations, invited Dr Stephanie Neubronner to be an expert-mentor. She supervised two teams of students from Methodist Girls' School and Dunman High School on research projects involving the study of new media use and its impact on social relationships.

NSSP will continue to produce policy-oriented research for the consumption of both the local practitioner community and the general academic and public audiences.

Science and Technology Studies Programme (STSP)

The Science and Technology Studies Programme (STSP) is coordinated by Dr Tan Teck Boon, assisted by Mr Phidel Marion G Vineles, Senior Analyst, under the mentorship of Dr Shashi Jayakumar, Executive Coordinator of Future Issues and Technology (FIT) and Head of CENS. STSP continued its work in 2020, a year disrupted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Up-to-date Research for Policymakers

STSP produced 10 research reports and bulletins for policymakers in the homeland security domain to inform and help sensitise them to the most important science and technology (S&T)-related security trends and events affecting the world today. Spanning a wide range of S&T themes, these exclusive research reports and bulletins delved into hot-button subjects such as infectious diseases, smart cities, and neuroscience to unlock their S&T and policy significance.

Academic Research and Scholarly Publications

Dr Tan's book *Smart Cities in Asia: Governing Development in the Era of Hyper-Connectivity* was published by Edward Elgar Publishing during the year. The book was co-edited with Associate Professor Yumin Joo at the prestigious KDI School of Public Policy and Management in South Korea. Covering major smart cities in East, Southeast, and South Asia, the book examined the reasons why cities in the fastest growing regions in the world are eagerly jumping onto the smart city bandwagon, and the challenges they encounter.

Mr Vineles' op-ed titled "How ASEAN Should Respond as One Community to COVID-19 and Its Aftermath" provided an up-to-date assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic in ASEAN, as well as some solutions for member countries to move forward. The op-ed was published in May in *All Asia Affairs*, a Tokyo-based research publication with a network of contributors across Asia.

Engagements with S&T Thought Leaders

STSP also engages with international thought-leaders, practitioners, and academics in the S&T domain. Such strategic engagements support and enrich STSP research, as well as to promote ideational exchanges with Singapore's policymakers, academics, and the public.

Despite in-person international engagements being affected by the COVID-19 travel restrictions, STSP forged ahead with much-needed ideational exchanges, turning to technology for engagement. In November 2020, Prof Phua Kai Hong, a leading public health expert in Singapore, delivered a webinar titled "Disease X: What Might the Next Pandemic Be?" that delved into the current infectious disease landscape to unlock which pathogens are most likely to trigger the next pandemic. Moderated by Dr Tan, the webinar was attended by RSIS researchers, students, and members of the public.

Policy Studies Group

In 2020, the Policy Studies Group (PSG) focused on identifying emerging and evolving policy concerns, as well as building research capacity on new areas that are of domain interests to RSIS. This is on top of PSG's mandate of engaging with local and international partners, including academic institutions, think tanks, and public agencies, to explore new opportunities for collaborations and research initiatives. The team also continued to pursue public outreach and education efforts. On 1 September, PSG welcomed Dr Norman Vasu, Senior Fellow and Coordinator of Policy Studies, to the team.

Emerging Areas of Policy Research

To promote policy awareness on emerging issues and trends, a key initiative was to expand engagement with local and foreign expert practitioners and to facilitate sharing of their research and perspectives with RSIS and the wider policy community in Singapore. PSG held an RSIS Webinar on "Coronavirus Broke the World: How Can We Build Back Better?" hosted by Dr Jamie Metzl, Founder and Chair of OneShared. World, and moderated by Prof Tommy Koh, Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore, and Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The webinar contextualised existing challenges and issues highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, while also emphasising opportunities for global consensus, cooperation, and unity to rebuild a better future.

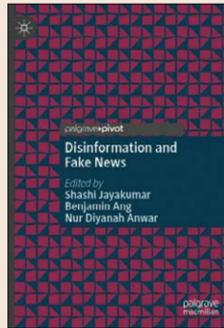
The PSG team also produced publications on topics such as pandemic preparedness, whole-of-society resilience, and developing future-ready attributes. Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna, Associate Dean of

RSIS, published an RSIS Commentary on "War on COVID-19: More Than One Front". Tan Ming Hui, Associate Research Fellow, published an RSIS Policy Report on "Living with Uncertainty: A Whole-of-Society Approach to Pandemics" and commentaries including "Aligning the Future of Learning With the Future of Work" in *TODAY* and an RSIS Commentary on "Thriving on Uncertainty: The Rise of Antifragile Societies?". Yoganathan s/o Theva, Associate Research Fellow, also published an RSIS Policy Report on "Building Critical Supply Chain Resilience in the Wake of COVID-19" and an RSIS Commentary on "Supply Chain Dependency: Decoupling from China?".

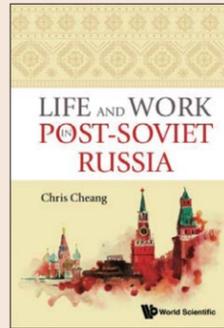
Outreach Activities

PSG researchers maintained their outreach to various academic and functional sectors in 2020. Assoc Prof Ramakrishna spoke on "The Evolving Threat of Terrorism and Militancy in Southeast Asia and Beyond: Why Total Defence Remains Relevant in the Age of COVID-19" for the RSIS-Military Studies Programme's SAF Day 2020 Webinar on "Singapore's Security Outlook in the Post-COVID World" on 30 July. He also spoke to the Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College at SAFTI Military Academy on the "Challenge of Political Islam" and "Threats to Singapore's Internal Security" on 15 and 16 September respectively. At the Home Team Academy on 30 September, he addressed their Senior Command and Staff Course on "The Evolving Threat of Transnational Terrorism" and together with Dr Norman Vasu, spoke on "Religious Fundamentalism in Southeast Asia: Implications for Singapore" on 6 October.

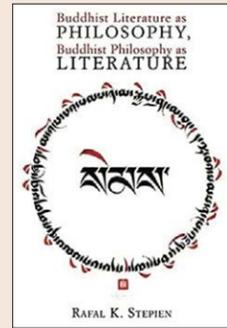
Books by RSIS Staff



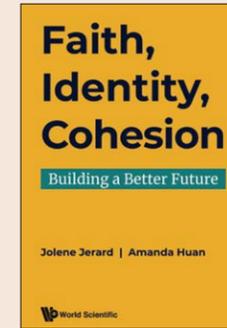
Disinformation and Fake News
Shashi Jayakumar, Benjamin Ang, and Nur Diyanah Anwar (Eds.)
Palgrave Macmillan: 2020
ISBN: 9789811558757



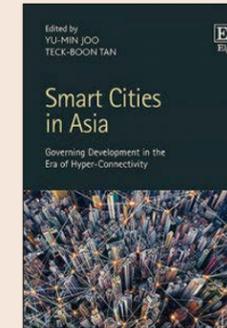
Life and Work in Post-Soviet Russia
Chris Cheang
World Scientific Publishing: 2020
ISBN: 9789811226762



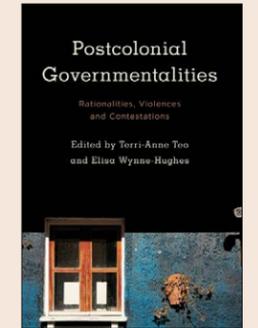
Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature
Rafal Stepien (Ed.)
State University of New York Press: 2020
ISBN: 9781438480725



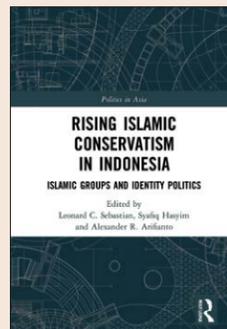
Faith, Identity, Cohesion: Building a Better Future
Jolene Jerard and Amanda Huan (Eds.)
World Scientific Publishing: 2020
ISBN: 9789811220586



Smart Cities in Asia: Governing Development in the Era of Hyper-Connectivity
Joo Yu-Min and Tan Teck Boon (Eds.)
Edward Elgar Publishing: 2020
ISBN: 9781788972871



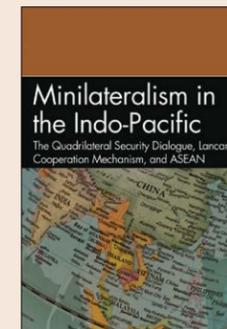
Postcolonial Governmentalities: Rationalities, Violences and Contestations
Terri-Anne Teo and Elisa Wynne-Hughes (Eds.)
Rowman and Littlefield International: 2020
ISBN: 9781786606822



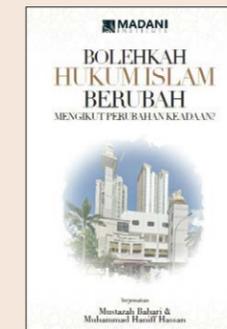
Rising Islamic Conservatism in Indonesia: Islamic Groups and Identity Politics
Leonard C. Sebastian, Syafiq Hasyim, and Alexander R. Arifianto (Eds.)
Routledge: 2020
ISBN: 9780367819415



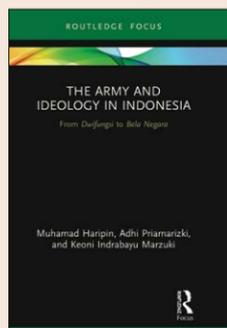
The 2018 and 2019 Indonesian Elections: Identity Politics and Regional Perspectives
Leonard C. Sebastian and Alexander R. Arifianto (Eds.)
Routledge: 2020
ISBN: 9780367467807



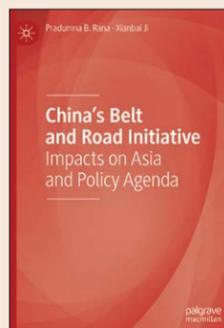
Minilateralism in the Indo-Pacific: The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism, and ASEAN
Bhubhinder Singh and Sarah Teo (Eds.)
Routledge: 2020
ISBN: 9780367430382



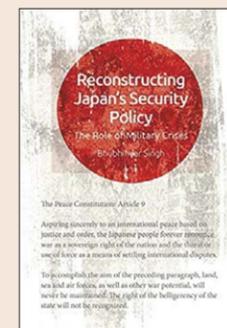
Bolehkah Hukum Islam Berubah Mengikuti Keadaan? [Contextualisation of Islamic Law]
Mustazah Bahari and Muhammad Haniff Hassan
Madani Institute: 2020
ISBN: 9789811454608



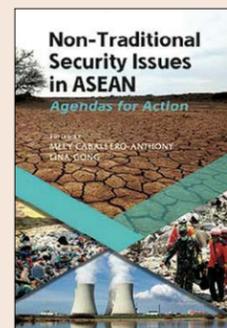
The Army and Ideology in Indonesia: From Dwifungsi to Bela Negara
Muhamad Haripin, Adhi Priamarizki, and Keoni Indrabayu Marzuki
Routledge: 2020
ISBN: 9780367553050



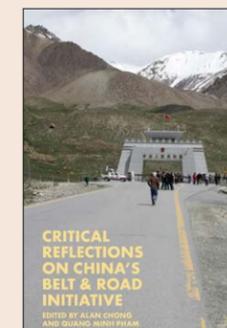
China's Belt and Road Initiative: Impacts on Asia and Policy Agenda
Pradumna Bickram Rana and Ji Xianbai
Palgrave Macmillan: 2020
ISBN: 9789811551703



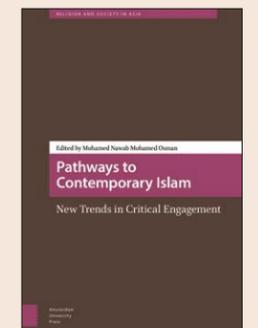
Reconstructing Japanese Security Policy: Role of Military Crises
Bhubhinder Singh
Edinburgh University Press: 2020
ISBN: 9781474446228



Non-Traditional Security Issues in ASEAN: Agendas for Action
Mely Caballero-Anthony and Lina Gong
ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute: 2020
ISBN: 9789814414418



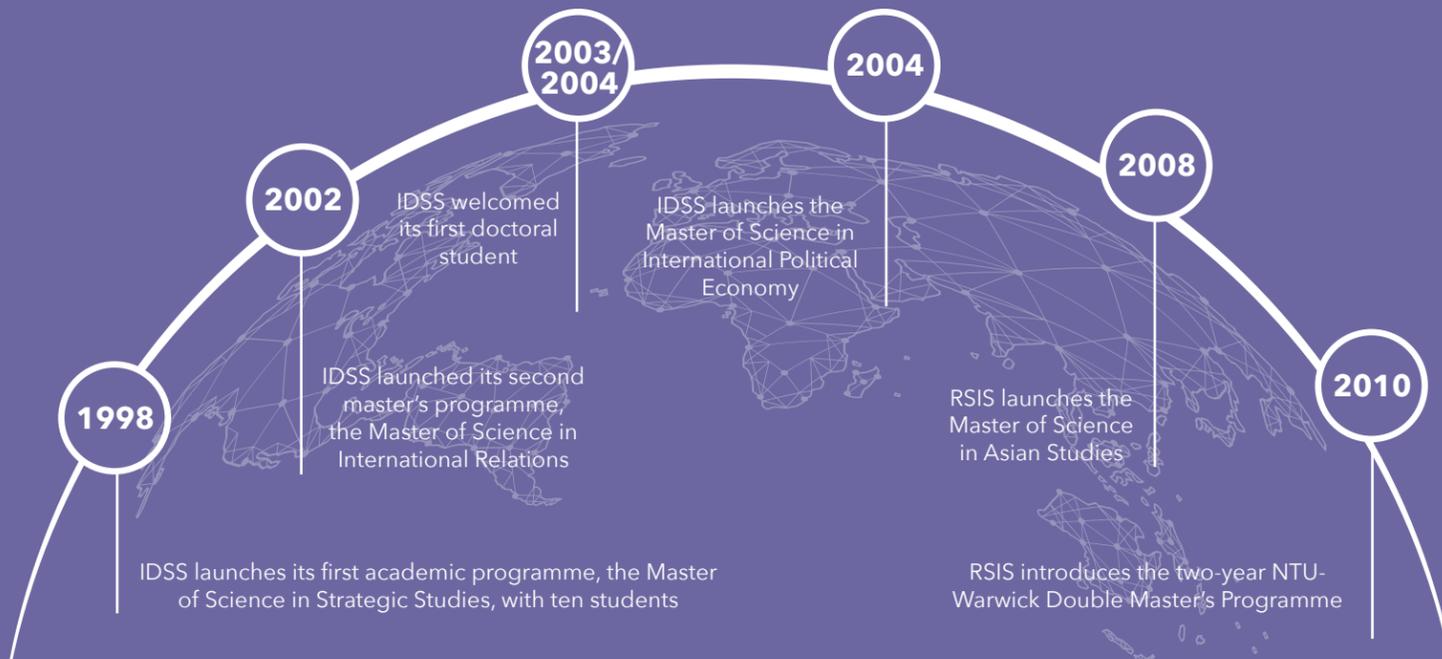
Critical Reflections on China's Belt & Road Initiative
Alan Chong and Minh Pham Quang (Eds.)
Palgrave Macmillan: 2020
ISBN: 9789811320972



Pathways to Contemporary Islam: New Trends in Critical Engagement
Mohamed Nawab Mohamed Osman (Ed.)
Amsterdam University Press: 2020
ISBN: 9789462987593

Education

MILESTONES



“ I was looking for a solid postgraduate programme from a reputable institution that would allow me to develop knowledge and skillsets relevant to my career interests and personal development. I was looking for a course that was also grounded in practical issues, rather than being excessively theoretical.

The RSIS programmes are very rigorous and worth the time and effort spent. The breadth of courses allows you to pursue your personal interests and develop knowledge in academia and beyond.

James Koh Ming Yi, MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme, AY2019/2020

“ The professors at RSIS are nurturing, supportive, and inspiring in the manner they conduct their lessons, as well as how you can have in-depth consultations with them to discuss any concerns.

My time at RSIS has changed the way I view the happenings around the world. It has made me more aware and most crucially, curious about why and how things are the way they are.

The RSIS MSc programmes will open your mind to new perspectives and challenge you to think critically about issues of international and personal importance.

Wendy He, MSc (International Relations) Programme, AY2019/2020

Graduate Education

Master of Science (MSc) Programmes

Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings 2021



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 25 countries (including students from Ghana and Mongolia for the first time) enrolled in RSIS MSc programmes in AY2020/2021. Twenty 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 2020 online.



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

Doctoral Programme

The PhD programme offered by RSIS also has a diverse and cosmopolitan student body comprising 15 doctoral candidates, including four new PhD students who joined RSIS in July 2020. The students are of nine different nationalities hailing from countries across Asia, Europe, and North 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.

Two of our PhD students met their graduation requirements by July 2020, raising the number of RSIS PhD graduates to 28. Their final thesis topics were "The State, Infrastructure and Economic Growth in Jokowi's First Term" and "Periods of Peace between Major Powers in World History".



“ I cannot stress enough the importance of finding the right supervisors. RSIS has a large and diverse faculty so there are a lot of choices. My supervisors helped me to realise the research agenda that I had in mind. This is helpful in establishing your own niche in the field.

For anyone interested in understanding political and economic trends in the region from a ground-level perspective, RSIS is the place to be. If you are doing research on Southeast Asia, even the best programmes in the US, Europe or Australia won't allow you to live and work in the region you are studying, and the ability to carry out sustained, careful fieldwork was probably the biggest advantage of doing my PhD at RSIS. ”

James Guild, PhD Graduate, AY2019/2020

“ My experience as a doctoral student at RSIS was second to none. The PhD programme is one of just a handful which allows you to seriously study the Indo-Pacific in the Indo-Pacific. By encouraging fieldwork, offering flexible study options, organising regular seminars, and hosting leading visiting scholars, RSIS has distinguished itself as a centre for learning, collaboration, and research. ”

Jared McKinney, PhD Graduate, AY2019/2020

Convocation

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on RSIS graduate teaching, with 31 courses transitioning fully online during Singapore's Circuit Breaker period in Trimester 3 of the past academic year. The Graduate Programmes Office (GPO) worked closely with the teaching team to ensure a seamless transition and minimised any disruption to our students' education and graduation timelines. The students themselves demonstrated extraordinary resilience to adapt to the new circumstances, successfully overcoming the challenges posed by the new teaching model and graduating in time. The Office also offered a mindfulness programme to students to help them overcome stress.

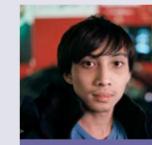
The RSIS class of 2020 comprising 164 master's students (including three NTU-Warwick Double Master's students) marked their graduation on 18 July through our first-ever Virtual Graduation Celebration via Zoom.

Assoc Prof Bhubhinder Singh, Head of Graduate Studies at RSIS, presented the academic award winners for AY2019/2020. They included four master's students who distinguished themselves through their outstanding academic achievements:

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 AY2019/2020 are listed below. We thank the sponsors for their generous donations and continuous support through the years.

▶ 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.

Mr James Koh Ming Yi
MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme

▶ THE RAJABALI JUMABHOY FOUNDATION GOLD MEDAL



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

Mr Isaac Neo Yi Chong
MSc (Asian Studies) Programme

▶ SINGAPORE TECHNOLOGIES ENGINEERING GOLD MEDAL



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

Ms Wendy He
MSc (International Relations) 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.

Mr Joshua Tan Ching Khiang
MSc (International Political Economy) Programme
Winner of the Tay Seow Huah Book Prize and The Lion Group Gold Medal

▶ THE LION GROUP GOLD MEDAL



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

Mr Joshua Tan Ching Khiang
MSc (International Political Economy) Programme

Prof Ralf Emmers, Dean of RSIS, congratulated the graduates and in his message to the students emphasised that as digital natives, they are well prepared to handle the complex and uncertain world environment after their studies at RSIS.

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.

“ My experience at RSIS was a fulfilling and enriching one. I benefited greatly from the guidance of my dedicated professors, who were not only well-versed in their domain expertise but also had relevant policy experience working in think tanks.

My studies at RSIS have enabled me to develop academic rigour in policy analysis, which will enrich the way I approach analysing international affairs in my career moving forward.

Studying at RSIS will give you a holistic education that enhances both your academic and professional development. ”

Isaac Neo Yi Chong,
MSc (Asian Studies) Programme, AY2019/2020



Assoc Prof Anit Mukherjee
Deputy Head of Graduate Studies



Assoc Prof Badrol Hisham bin Noor (Farish)
Coordinator of PhD Programme



Asst Prof Hoo Tiang Boon
Coordinator of MSc (Asian Studies) Programme



Asst Prof Rafal Stepien
Deputy Coordinator of MSc (Asian Studies) Programme



Asst Prof Lee Su-Hyun
Coordinator of MSc (International Political Economy) Programme



Asst Prof Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit
Deputy Coordinator of MSc (International Political Economy) Programme; and Deputy Head of CMS



Asst Prof Irm Haleem
Coordinator of MSc (International Relations) Programme



Assoc Prof Alan Chong
Deputy Coordinator of MSc (International Relations) Programme; and Acting Head of CMS



Dr Bernard Loo
Coordinator of MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme



Asst Prof Ong Wei Chong
Deputy Coordinator of MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme



Ms Geanina Bujoreanu
Graduate Programmes Office Manager

Best Dissertation: “Democratic Institutions and Climate Change Policy Outcomes”

In his award-winning dissertation titled “Democratic Institutions and Climate Change Policy Outcomes”, Joshua Tan Ching Khiang, MSc in International Political Economy (AY2019/2020), discusses the nature of international cooperation and domestic politics in climate change policy. More specifically, the paper examines whether and how democratic countries perform better in reducing carbon emissions. By employing a cross-national time-series analysis using both aggregate and disaggregate measures of domestic institutional traits of democracy for 97 countries, he found that aggregate measures are inadequate in studying climate change policy. Instead, the findings suggest that civil liberties play an important role when considering how countries perform better at lowering per capita carbon dioxide emissions. This study also found that highly democratic countries with a well-educated citizenry are more likely to reduce carbon emissions compared to other countries. These findings have implications on empirical studies in climate change politics as well as how various spheres of domestic politics interact in the climate change arena. In summary, this paper highlights the causal mechanisms of specific institutional traits of democracy in reducing carbon emissions using quantitative methods and fills an important gap in the climate change politics literature, where previous studies have found conflicting evidence on the effects of democracy and democratic institutions on climate change policy.

“ The student body at RSIS is incredibly diverse and this was something I enjoyed. Listening to the different perspectives offered by my fellow classmates helped shape my own views on many different issues.

At RSIS, you get the benefit of being taught by so many experts in their fields. The faculty is truly world-class. ”

Joshua Tan Ching Khiang,
MSc (International Political Economy) Programme, AY2019/2020

Read the full dissertation on NTU's digital repository: <https://dr.ntu.edu.sg/handle/10356/137820>

External Education

RSIS continues to make vital contributions towards the education of senior officials in key significant appointments from other government agencies. For the second consecutive year, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has engaged RSIS to design and deliver modules over two years as part of the MHA's leadership milestone programmes conducted by the Home Team Centre for Leadership of the Home Team Academy.

For the first time, RSIS hosted the Home Team officers to a full day of home-based learning as classes went online. As part of the milestone programmes, RSIS delivered specially curated material focusing on the areas of national and regional security, religion and terrorism, Singapore foreign policy, cyber and non-traditional security, as well as international geopolitics.

Keeping abreast of contemporary trends and challenges in the national, regional, and global security horizons allows Home Team officers to better contextualise opportunities and threats in their respective areas. The Home Team officers have found such customised content especially enriching and RSIS' expertise, insightful and invaluable. Such engagements allow RSIS to contribute to the rigour of policy thinking within the public sector and in this case, future leaders who drive the transformation of the Home Team to meet future challenges.

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

MANAGEMENT

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong
LLB Hons (University of Singapore), MA (Georgetown University)
*Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS
Director of Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies*

Professor Ralf Emmers
BA (VUB-Vesalius College), MSc and PhD (LSE)
*Dean of RSIS
President's Chair in International Relations,
Nanyang Technological University,
Singapore*

Dr Ang Cheng Guan
BA Hons (NUS), MA and PhD (London)
*Professor of the International History of Southeast Asia
Associate Dean of RSIS
Deputy Director of Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies*

Dr Kumar Ramakrishna
BSSc Hons (NUS), Master in Defence Studies (UNSW), PhD (London)
*Associate Professor
Associate Dean in charge of Policy Studies
Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research
Research Adviser to National Security Studies Programme*

(in alphabetical order)

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony
BA Hons and MA (UP), PhD (HKU)
*Professor of International Relations
Head of Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies*

Ms Alicia Cheung Wai Lai
BCom (NU), MBA (NTU)
Head of Administration

Dr Alan Chong Chia Siong
BSocSc Hons (NUS), MSc and PhD (LSE)
*Associate Professor
Acting Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies
Deputy Coordinator of MSc (International Relations) Programme*

Dr Shashi Jayakumar
BA Hons, MA and DPhil (Oxford)
*Senior Fellow
Head of Centre of Excellence for National Security
Executive Coordinator of Future Issues and Technology*

Mr Eddie Lim Meng Chong
BA (NUS), PGDE (NIE, NTU), MSc (RSIS, NTU)
*Senior Fellow
Head of Military Studies Programme,
Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies*

Ambassador Mohammad Alami Musa
BEng (University of Singapore), MSc (NUS)
Head of Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme

Mrs Ong-Chew Peck Wan
BA Hons (NUS), MSJ (Northwestern University)
Head of Corporate Affairs

Mr Benny Oon Khim Yong
BSSc Hons (NUS), MComms (USC)
*Head of Outreach
Executive Coordinator of Risk and Innovation Management*

Dr Bhubhindar Singh
BA Hons (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (University of Sheffield)
*Associate Professor
Head of Graduate Studies*

Mr Sng Seow Lian
Dip (Sandhurst), BA Hons (NUS), Master in Defence Studies (UNSW)
Head of Strategic Planning and Projects

Mr Adrian Tan Tai Loon
BA Hons (NUS), MA (Stanford University)
Head of Policy Coordination and Specialist Research

DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS

Ambassador Barry Desker
BA Hons (University of Singapore), MA (London)
Distinguished Fellow

Dr Yaacob Ibrahim
BEng Hons; MSc (University of Singapore); PhD (Stanford University)
Distinguished Fellow

FACULTY AND RESEARCH

(in alphabetical order)

Mr Muhammad Faizal bin Abdul Rahman
BBA (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU)
Research Fellow

Dr Mohamed bin Ali
BA (Al-Azhar University), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (Exeter)
Assistant Professor

Dr Adrian Ang U-Jin
BA (Okanagan University College); MA (University of Calgary); PhD (University of Missouri)
Research Fellow

More details and updates are at www.rsis.edu.sg/about-rsis/staff-profiles

Dr Ang Cheng Guan
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*Professor of the International History of Southeast Asia
Associate Dean of RSIS
Deputy Director of Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies*

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LLB (NUS), MBA and MS-MIS (Boston)
*Senior Fellow
Deputy Head of Centre of Excellence for National Security*

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony
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*Professor of International Relations
Head of Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies*

Dr Alexander Raymond Arifianto
BA (Ripon College), MA (Brandeis University), MA (Johns Hopkins University), PhD (Arizona State University)
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*Senior Fellow
Coordinator of Maritime Security Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies*

Mr Chris Cheang
BSSc Hons (University of Singapore)
Senior Fellow

Dr Damien Dominic Cheong Eng Hoe
(Until September 2020)
BComm and BA Hons (Murdoch), PhD (Monash University)
*Research Fellow
Acting Head of National Security Studies Programme*

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BSocSc Hons (NUS), MSc and PhD (LSE)
*Associate Professor
Acting Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies
Deputy Coordinator of MSc (International Relations) Programme*

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*Senior Fellow
Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme,
Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies*

Ambassador Barry Desker
BA Hons (University of Singapore), MA (London)
Distinguished Fellow

Dr J. Soedradjad Djiwandono
(Until January 2020)
BA (UGM), MSc (Wisconsin-Madison), PhD (Boston)
Professor of International Economics

Dr James Michael Dorsey
BEcon Hons (University of Amsterdam), PhD (University of Utrecht)
Senior Fellow

Professor Ralf Emmers
BA (VUB-Vesalius College), MSc and PhD (LSE)

*Dean of RSIS
President's Chair in International Relations,
Nanyang Technological University,
Singapore*

Mr Joseph Franco
BA (UP), MSc (RSIS, NTU)
Research Fellow

Dr Lina Gong
MA (Sichuan University), MSc and PhD (RSIS, NTU)
Research Fellow

Dr Gong Xue
BPhil (NNU), MSc and PhD (RSIS, NTU)
Assistant Professor

Dr Rohan Gunaratna
MA (Notre Dame), PhD (St Andrews)
Professor of Security Studies

Dr Gulizar Hacıyakupoglu
BS (SUNY, Binghamton), BA (Boğaziçi University), MA (University of Sheffield, UK), PhD (NUS)
Research Fellow



RSIS celebrated its 24th anniversary on 30 July 2020

Dr Mahfuh bin Haji Halimi
BA Hons (UKM), MSc and PhD (RSIS, NTU)
Research Fellow

Dr Irm Haleem
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Manager for Research & Publications, International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research
Coordinator of MSc (International Relations) Programme

Mr Han Fook Kwang
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Mr Manoj Harjani (*From May 2020*)
BA (NUS)
Research Fellow

Dr Ahmed Salah Hashim (*Until July 2020*)
BA (Warwick), MSc and PhD (MIT)
Associate Professor
Head of Horizon Threats and Strategies, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

Dr Muhammad Haniff bin Hassan
BA Hons (UKM), MSc (IDSS, NTU), PhD (RSIS, NTU)
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Dr Paul Hedges
BA Hons, MA and PhD (Wales)
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Dr Hoo Tiang Boon
BEng (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (Oxford)
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Coordinator of MSc (Asian Studies) Programme

Dr Benjamin Ho Tze Ern
BComm Hons (NTU), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (LSE)
Assistant Professor

Dr Shashi Jayakumar
BA Hons, MA and DPhil (Oxford)
Senior Fellow
Head of Centre of Excellence for National Security
Executive Coordinator of Future Issues and Technology

Dr Jason Ji Xianbai (*Until March 2020*)
BEng (Xiamen University), MSc and PhD (RSIS, NTU)
Research Fellow

Mr Yang Razali Kassim
BA and BSocSc Hons (University of Singapore)
Senior Fellow

Dr Arunajeet Kaur (*Until June 2020*)
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Research Fellow

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Coordinator of United States Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

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Dr John Kwok Jung Yun (*Until April 2020*)
BA and PhD (University of Wollongong)
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Dr Jikon Lai
BSc (LSE), MPhil (Oxon), PhD (ANU)
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Dr Lee Chia-yi (*Until January 2020*)
BA and MA (National Taiwan University), MA and PhD (Washington University in St Louis)
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Assistant Professor

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Coordinator of MSc (International Political Economy) Programme

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Coordinator of China Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

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Head of Military Studies Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

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Tan Kah Kee Chair in Comparative and International Politics, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

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Coordinator of MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme

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Assistant Professor

Dr Anit Mukherjee
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Deputy Head of Graduate Studies

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Head of Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme

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Head of Research Integrity and Data Management Unit

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BA Hons and PhD (University of Western Australia)
Research Fellow

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BA Hons (University of East Anglia), MA (University of Sussex), DPhil (Oxford)
Research Fellow

Dr Badrol Hisham bin Noor (Farish)
BA and MPhil (Sussex), MA (London), PhD (Essex)
Associate Professor
Coordinator of PhD Programme

Dr Ong Wei Chong
Cert History (Hull), BA (East Anglia), MSc (IDSS, NTU), PhD (Exeter)
Assistant Professor
Deputy Coordinator of MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme

Mr Raffaello Pantucci (*From July 2020*)
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Senior Fellow

Dr Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit
BA (California State University), MA and PhD (University of California)
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Deputy Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies
Deputy Coordinator of MSc (International Political Economy) Programme

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Associate Dean in charge of Policy Studies
Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research
Research Adviser to National Security Studies Programme

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Coordinator of Military Transformations Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

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Senior Fellow

Dr Evan Resnick
BA Hons (York University), MA, MPhil and PhD (Columbia University)
Assistant Professor

Dr Sinderpal Singh s/o Santokh Singh
BA (NUS), MA (ANU), PhD (Aberystwyth)
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Coordinator of South Asia Programme and Regional Security Architecture Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

Dr Leonard Sebastian
BA Hons, MA, Grad Dip Strategic Studies (York University), PhD (ANU)
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Coordinator of Indonesia Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

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Associate Professor
Head of Graduate Studies

Dr Rafal Stepien
BA (UWA), BA and MA (University of Oxford), MPhil (University of Cambridge), MA, MPhil and PhD (Columbia University)
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Deputy Coordinator of MSc (Asian Studies) Programme

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Research Fellow

Dr Olli Pekka Suorsa
BA (Tallinn University of Technology), MSc (SOAS), PhD (CityU)
Research Fellow

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BA Hons and MA (Manitoba), PhD (Arizona State University)
Professor of International Relations

Mr Tan Seng Chye
BSc Hons (University of Singapore)
Senior Fellow

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BSc (State University of New York), MSocSc (NUS), PhD (LKYSPP, NUS)
Research Fellow
Coordinator of Science and Technology Studies Programme

Dr Sarah Teo Li-Shan
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Research Fellow

Dr Terri-Anne Teo Mei Sze
BSocSc (SMU), MSc and PhD (University of Bristol)
Research Fellow

Ms Teo Yi-Ling
LLB (Hons) (The University of Liverpool), LLM (Northwestern University in Chicago)
Senior Fellow

Mr Julius Cesar Imperial Trajano
BA (UP), MSc (RSIS, NTU)
Research Fellow

Dr Norman Vasu
MA Hons (Glasgow), MSc (LSE), PhD (Aberystwyth)
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Coordinator of Policy Studies

Dr Pascal Vennesson
BA and MPS Hons (Pantheon Sorbonne University, Paris I), BA Hons, MPS Hons and PhD Summa Cum Laude (Sciences Po Paris)
Senior Fellow
Head of Research at Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

Mr Jansen Paul Wee Yang Teck
BA Hons (NUS)
Research Fellow

Dr Wu Shang-Su
BA and MA (National Taiwan University), PhD (UNSW)
Research Fellow

Mr Zhang Hongzhou
BSc (NTU), MSc (RSIS, NTU)
Research Fellow

VISITING FELLOWS

Mr Bernard William Baker
Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS
2 March 2020 - 1 March 2021

Dr Rajesh Manohar Basrur
Visiting Professor

Mr Richard Allan Bitzinger
Visiting Senior Fellow, Military Transformations Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies
1 March 2018 - 28 February 2021



Emcees of the RSIS Day 2020 Celebrations, and Margareth Sembiring, winner of the Talent Show segment on 30 July 2020



Mr Loyd William Brown
Visiting Fellow, RSIS
18 August 2020 - 31 August 2021

Mr Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy
Visiting Fellow, RSIS
15 May 2018 - 31 May 2020

Ms Valerie Chua
Visiting Fellow, RSIS
1 June - 31 August 2020

Ms Jeanne Louise Conceicao
Visiting Fellow, RSIS
2 January 2019 - 31 January 2021

Dr Deep Kisor Datta Ray
Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS
12 July 2019 - 31 March 2021

Dr Feng Huiyun
Visiting Senior Fellow, China Programme,
Institute of Defence and Strategic
Studies
23 December 2019 - 19 January 2020

Dr Adam Morris Garfinkle
Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS
29 July 2019 - 31 July 2020

Dr Noeleen Heyzer
Former Under-Secretary-General,
United Nations
Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS
1 March 2016 - 28 February 2021

Dr Noor Huda Ismail
Visiting Fellow, RSIS
24 September 2018 - 23 March 2022

Dr Frederick Kliem
Visiting Fellow, Centre for Multilateralism
Studies
2 May 2019 - 30 April 2021

Mr Kuniyuki II Kaname Kenneth
Visiting Fellow, RSIS
24 July 2019 - 30 June 2020

Dr Melissa Levaillant
Visiting Fellow, RSIS
4 November 2019 - 30 April 2020

Mr Peter Lim Heng Loong
Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS
1 February 2018 - 31 January 2020

Ms Vijayalakshmi Menon
Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS
8 November 2017 - 31 January 2020

Mr Raffaello Pantucci
Visiting Senior Fellow, International
Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism
Research
20 January - 19 July 2020

Dr Adhi Priamarizki
Visiting Fellow, Indonesia Programme,
Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies
9 September 2019 - 8 March 2021

Dr Pradumna Bickram Rana
Visiting Associate Professor

Professor Abdullah Saeed
Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and
Islamic Studies, University of Melbourne
Peter Lim Professor of Peace Studies, RSIS
5 November 2018 - 13 February 2019,
4 November 2019 - 12 February 2020,
2 November 2020 - 12 Feb 2021

Mr Victor Roger Savage
Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS
7 February 2017 - 28 February 2021

Mr Pisupati Sadasiva Suryanarayana
Visiting Fellow, RSIS
1 June 2018 - 31 May 2020

Dr Kevin Tan Yew Lee
Visiting Professor

Professor Geoffrey Till
Director, Corbett Centre for Maritime
Policy Studies, King's College London
Visiting Senior Fellow, Maritime Security
Programme,
Institute of Defence and Strategic
Studies
4 November 2016 - 30 June 2021

ADJUNCT STAFF

Mr Mushahid Ali s/o Munshi Asmat Ali
BA Hons (University of Singapore)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

LONG SERVICE AWARD (10 YEARS)

Dr Pradumna Bickram Rana
Visiting Associate Professor,
Centre for Multilateralism Studies

Dr Benjamin Ho
Assistant Professor, China Programme,
Institute of Defence and Strategic
Studies

Ms Faridah Saroni
Student and Alumni Affairs Executive,
Graduate Programmes Office

Mr Scott Lai
Deputy Head, Strategic Planning and
Projects, and Senior Events Manager

Ms Gil Baram
BA and MA Magna Cum Laude (Tel-Aviv
University)
Adjunct Fellow

Dr Robert C. Beckman
LLM (Harvard), JD BBA (Wisconsin)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Jean Bogais
MSc and PhD (University of Paris IV,
Sorbonne)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Mr Richard Borsuk (From August 2020)
BA Asian Studies (University of
Wisconsin)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Richard J. Chasdi
BA (Brandeis University), MA (Boston
College), PhD (Purdue University)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Alvin Chew
BEng (NTU), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD
(Imperial College)
Adjunct Fellow

Dr Chew Soon Beng
BComm Hons (Nanyang University),
MSc (University of Singapore), PhD
(University of Western Ontario)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Daniel Chua
BA Hons and MA (NTU), PhD (ANU)
Adjunct Fellow

More details and updates are at www.rsis.edu.sg/about-rsis/staff-profiles

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(From October 2020)
BA (UCLA), MSc and PhD (RSIS, NTU)
Adjunct Fellow

Mr Zaid Hamzah
LLB (National University of Singapore),
MA (Fletcher School of Law and
Diplomacy, Tufts University)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Mr Calvin Han (From January 2020)
BA Genetics (University of Cambridge),
MSc (University of Pennsylvania)
Adjunct Fellow

Ms Eunice Huang Muhui
BA (University of Michigan), MSc
(University of Oxford)
Adjunct Fellow

Dr Francis Hutchinson
BA Hons (Cambridge), MPhil (Sussex),
PhD (ANU)
Adjunct Fellow

Dr Reynaldo Clemena Iletto
BA Cum Laude (Ateneo de Manila
University), MA and PhD (Cornell)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Jolene Anne R. Jerard
BSSc Hons (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD
(University of St Andrews)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Majeed Khader
BSocSc Hons (NUS), MSc (Leicester), PhD
(Aberdeen)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Tomoo Kikuchi
BA (Meiji Gakuin University), MSc (The
University of Warwick), PhD (Bielefeld
University)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Naoko Kumada
LLB (Keio University), LLM (Santa Clara),
MA (Tokyo Metropolitan University), PhD
(Cambridge)
Adjunct Fellow

Dr Jonatan Anderias Lassa
B Engg (Widya Mandira Catholic
University), MSc (East Anglia), Dr Ing
(University of Bonn)
Adjunct Fellow

Dr Lee Hwok Aun
BA First Class Hons (University of
British Columbia), MSc (UOL), PhD
(Massachusetts)
Adjunct Fellow

Ms Margaret Liang Yu Yee
BSc Hons (University of Singapore)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Lim Ee Peng
BSc (NUS), PhD (University of Minnesota)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Christopher Hang-Kwang Lim
(From July 2020)
BS magna cum laude (NMU), MS (UIC),
PhD (ANU)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Mr Peter Lim Heng Loong
(From February 2020)
Cambridge Overseas School Certificate
(Grade 1), (ACS Singapore)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Mr Lin Chung Ying
BA Hons (University of Singapore),
MALD (Fletcher School of Law and
Diplomacy)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Makio Miyagawa (From April 2020)
PhD (Oxford University)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr C. Raja Mohan
BSc First Class and MSc First Class
(Andhra), MPhil and PhD (Jawaharlal
Nehru University)
Adjunct Professor

Dr Hitoshi Nasu
BA and MA (Aoyama Gakuin University),
LLM and PhD (University of Sydney)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Graham Gerard Ong-Webb
BSSc Hons (NUS), MSc (LSE), AKC, PhD
(KCL)
Adjunct Fellow

Dr Parama Sinha Palit
BA (Delhi University), MA, MPhil and PhD
(Jawaharlal Nehru University)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Mr Adam Palmer
BA (Valparaiso University), JD (Duquesne
University School of Law), MBA
(University of Hawaii)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Mr Pisupati Sadasiva Suryanarayana
(From September 2020)
MA (University of Madras)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Angela Poh Ming Yan
BA Summa Cum Laude (Marymount
Manhattan College), MSc (University of
Oxford) and PhD (RSIS, NTU)
Adjunct Fellow

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Adjunct Fellow

Mr Evan Rogerson
MA (University of Auckland)
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Dr Johan Saravanamuttu
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and PhD (University of British Columbia)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

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University in the City of New York)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Ms Susan Sim
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Adjunct Senior Fellow

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Adjunct Senior Fellow

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(American University)
Adjunct Professor

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BEng Hons (NUS), MSc and PhD (NTU)
Adjunct Fellow

Dr Paul Teng Piang Siong
BAgriculturalSc Hons and PhD
(Canterbury)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Frank Umbach
BA (University of Marburg), MA and PhD
(University of Bonn)
Adjunct Senior Fellow

Dr Friedrich W. Y. Wu
BA Cum Laude (California State
University, Chico), MA and PhD
(Washington)
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Dr Yeo Lay Hwee
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(NUS)
Adjunct Fellow

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Adjunct Senior Fellow

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BA (SMU)
Research Analyst

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BSocSc (Universitas Indonesia), MSc
(RSIS, NTU)
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Master in Islamic Studies (Universiti
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MSc (RSIS, NTU)
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Research Analyst

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Teaching Fellow

Mr Ho Wan Beng
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Mr Shawn Ho Yuan Sheng
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Senior Analyst

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Heritage Hons (IIUM), BA Hons (University
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Associate Research Fellow

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Associate Research Fellow

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(Georgetown University)
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Mr Syed Huzaifah bin Othman Alkaff
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University), MA (King's College London)
Associate Research Fellow

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Senior Analyst

Mr Nawaljeet Singh Rayar
BEng (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU)
Senior Analyst

Mr Mohammed Sinan Siyech
Dip Arabic Language (Summit
Academy), BCom Hons (Christ
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Senior Analyst

Mr Nodirbek Soliev
LLB and LLM (UWED), MSc (RSIS, NTU)
Senior Analyst

Ms Zoe Stanley-Lockman
BA (Johns Hopkins University), MIS
(Sciences Po Paris)
Associate Research Fellow

Mr Muhammad Saiful Alam Shah bin
Sudiman
BA Islamic Theology (Al-Azhar
University), Master in Counselling
(Monash University), MSc (RSIS, NTU)
Associate Research Fellow

Ms Piya Raj Sukhani
BA Hons (University of Nottingham)
Research Analyst

Mr Emirza Adi Syailendra
BSocSc (University of Indonesia), MSc
(RSIS, NTU)
Senior Analyst

Mr Eugene Tan E. Guang
BA (NUS), Post Grad Dip and MIS
(Otago)
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Ms Tan Ming Hui
BA Hons (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU)
Associate Research Fellow

Mr Yoganathan s/o Theva
(Until September 2020)
BA Hons, MA (NUS)
Associate Research Fellow

Ms Tiola
BPSc (Parahyangan Catholic University),
MSc (RSIS, NTU)
Senior Analyst

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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. With the COVID-19 global pandemic this year, RSIS also started a special series of RSIS Commentaries under “Global Health Security: COVID-19 and Its Impacts”. 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

Conceptualising Social Cohesion in Relation to Religious Diversity: Sketching a Pathway in a Globalised World
– Paul Hedges in *Interreligious Relations (IRR)*, Issue 16, May 2020

Secularism in Singapore: Asatizah's Perspectives on its Reconcilability with Islam
– Mohammad Alami Musa and Nursheila Muez in *Interreligious Relations (IRR)*, Issue 15, April 2020

RSIS POLICY REPORTS

The Geopolitics of the Mekong and a Radical Proposal for ASEAN to Navigate it
– Frederick Kliem, November 2020

Southeast Asia-China Cooperation in Disaster Management in Post-COVID Era
– Lina Gong, September 2020

Vietnam's High-Speed Railway and the Profitability of "Shinkansen"
– Tomoo Kikuchi and Tomoyo Nakamura, September 2020

Regionalism and COVID-19: How EU-ASEAN Inter-regionalism Can Strengthen Pandemic Management
– Frederick Kliem, August 2020

Traffic Congestion in Jakarta and the Japanese Experience of Transit-Oriented Development
– Tomoo Kikuchi and Shunta Hayashi, August 2020

Building Peace and Prosperity - The Role of Elite Networks in ASEAN and Beyond
– Mikael Weissmann, July 2020

Living with Uncertainty: A Whole-of-Society Approach to Pandemics
– Tan Ming Hui, July 2020

Building Critical Supply Chain Resilience in the Wake of COVID-19
– Yoganathan S/O Theva, July 2020

Pathways for ASEAN Contributions to Sustainable Peace and Security in Rakhine State, Myanmar
– Alistair D. B. Cook and S. Nanthini, May 2020

Governing Human-induced Disasters in Southeast Asia: Insights from the 2017 Marawi Conflict
– Angelo Paolo Luna Trias and Lina Gong, April 2020

Countermeasures Against Foreign Interference
– Muhammad Faizal Bin Abdul Rahman, Gulizar Hacıyakupoglu, Jennifer Yang Hui, Dymples Leong, Teo Yi-Ling and Benjamin Ang, April 2020

Foreign Interference in Domestic Politics: A National Security Perspective
– Damien D. Cheong, Stephanie Neubronner and Kumar Ramakrishna, April 2020

Cases of Foreign Interference in Asia
– Muhammad Faizal Bin Abdul Rahman, Gulizar Hacıyakupoglu, Benjamin Ang, Dymples Leong, Jennifer Yang Hui and Teo Yi-Ling, March 2020

Securing Elections and Beyond - Lessons from Canada's 2019 Federal Election
– Dymples Leong, March 2020

Co-chairing the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus: The Case of the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine (ACMM)
– Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, March 2020

The Dollar as the Dominant Global Reserve Currency: A Threat to Financial Stability?
– Duvvuri Subbarao, February 2020

Post-crisis Issues in Financial Sector Regulation
– Duvvuri Subbarao, January 2020

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

RSIS WORKING PAPERS

The Route to Radicalisation for Malay-Muslim Women: Tracing the Nexus between Universals and Particulars in Malaysia
– Piya Raj Sukhani, 7 August 2020

The Asia Pacific's "Age of Uncertainty": Great Power Competition, Globalisation and the Economic-Security Nexus
– Evelyn Goh, 10 June 2020

The New "Rare Metal Age": New Challenges and Implications of Critical Raw Materials Supply Security in the 21st Century
– Frank Umbach, 27 April 2020

Australia as a Rising Middle Power
– Malcolm Davis, 23 April 2020

The Intersection of Emergent Technologies and Geopolitics: Implications for Singapore
– Muhammad Faizal Bin Abdul Rahman, 7 April 2020

The "Indo-Pacific" Concept: Geographical Adjustments and their Implications
– Wada Haruko, 16 March 2020

RSIS COMMENTARIES

Green Recovery in Post-COVID-19 Southeast Asia?
– Margareth Sembiring in *NTS Insight*, 2 October 2020

Human Rights: ASEAN's Changing Perspectives
– Barry Desker in *RSIS Commentary*, 22 September 2020

Sino-Indian Himalayan Misadventures: What Now for Regional Geopolitics?
– Nazia Hussain in *RSIS Commentary*, 18 September 2020

How Will Biden Respond to China?
– Tan See Seng in *RSIS Commentary*, 17 September 2020

Female Suicide Bombers: Urgent Deterrence Needed
– Amalina Abdul Nasir in *RSIS Commentary*, 4 September 2020

COVID-19 and Its Impacts - Pandemic & Welfare Policies: Doling Out the Digital
– Amalina Anuar in *RSIS Commentary*, 2 September 2020

IS' Visual Propaganda: Amplifying Narratives and Affecting Radicalisation
– Ahmad Saiful Rijal Hassan and Nur Aziemah Azman in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analysis (CTTA)*, Vol. 12, Issue 5, 2 September 2020

The Islamic State's Reinvigorated and Evolved Propaganda Campaign in India
– Veera Singam Kalicharan in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 12, Issue 5, 2 September 2020

Ideological Convergence in the Extreme Right
– Kyler Ong in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 12, Issue 5, 2 September 2020

Humanitarian Assistance in Asia-Pacific During COVID-19
– Christopher Chen and Alistair D.B Cook in *NTS Insight*, 31 August 2020

2020 Jolo Suicide Attack: Evolving Tactics
– Kenneth Yeo and Remy Mahzam in *RSIS Commentary*, 31 August 2020

Pro-IS Home-Based Schooling in Indonesia
– V. Arianti and Ahmad Saiful Rijal in *RSIS Commentary*, 28 August 2020

COVID-19 and its Impacts - ASEAN Response: Pushing Back Vaccine Nationalism
– Caballero-Anthony, Mely, *RSIS Commentary* in 26 August 2020. Reprinted in *Eurasia Review*

COVID-19 and Its Impacts - Managing Economic Fallout: ASEAN+3's Incomplete Effort
– Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit in *RSIS Commentary*, 6 August 2020

Najib's Conviction: What Does It Mean for Muhyiddin?
– Prashant Waikar in *RSIS Commentary*, 5 August 2020

Trade Multilateralism: Alive and Well Despite Trump
– Pradumna B Rana in *RSIS Commentary*, 20 July 2020

BLM Movement: Singapore and Glocalisation
– Norman Vasu and Yasmine Wong in *RSIS Commentary*, 13 July 2020

China's Make-Over: From Celestial Kingdom to Hegemonic Power
– Victor R Savage in *RSIS Commentary*, 13 July 2020

Pancasila Guidance Bill: Tweaking Indonesia's Ideology
– Jefferson Ng in *RSIS Commentary*, 8 July 2020

Russia's Referendum: Is the Succession Issue Settled?
– Chris Cheang in *RSIS Commentary*, 3 July 2020

Building a Culture of Prevention for Occupational Safety and Health in the Face of a Pandemic: Lessons from the Nuclear Safety Culture
– Julius Cesar Trajano in *NTS Insight*, 29 June 2020

COVID-19 and Its Impacts - In Limbo in ASEAN: Pandemic and Irregular Migration
– S. Nanthini in *RSIS Commentary*, 25 June 2020

COVID-19 and Its Impacts - Regional Cohesion in the Pandemic Era
– Yang Razali Kassim in *RSIS Commentary*, 24 June 2020

China-India: The Stability-Instability Paradox
– Rajesh Basrur in *RSIS Commentary*, 23 June 2020

Indonesia's Islamic Charities: Plugging the Gap in Economic Relief
– Alexander R. Arifianto and Jonathan Chen in *RSIS Commentary*, 19 June 2020

Early Warning Systems: Stumbling Blocks Post-Pandemic
– Manoj Harjani in *RSIS Commentary*, 16 June 2020

Pandemic and Beyond: Phishing in a Larger Pond
– Jennifer Yang Hui and Teo Yi-Ling in *RSIS Commentary*, 15 June 2020

Women in Jihad: An Indonesian Context
– Unaesah Rahmah in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 12, Issue 4, 10 June 2020

COVID-19 and Its Impacts - Pandemic Response: Role of the State
– Luca Farrow in *RSIS Commentary*, 9 June 2020

COVID-19 and Food Security in Asia: How Prepared Are We?
– Mely Caballero-Anthony, Paul Teng, and Jose Montesclaros in *NTS Insight*, 9 June 2020

Global Health Security: COVID-19 and Its Impacts - Pandemic: The Idea of Social Resilience
– Norman Vasu in *RSIS Commentary*, 5 June 2020

Global Health Security: COVID-19 and Its Impacts - Rising Islamophobia in India: Exploiting the Pandemic?
– Nazneen Mohsina and Joseph Franco in *RSIS Commentary*, 3 June 2020

Pandemic Tracking: The Unfortunate Use of Statistics
– Jikon Lai in *RSIS Commentary*, 1 June 2020

Global Health Security: COVID-19 and Its Impacts - Cyber Attacks on Healthcare Systems: Infrastructure Protection Critical
– Eugene EG Tan in *RSIS Commentary*, 22 May 2020

Indonesia's Regional Elections: Entering Uncharted Waters?
– Dedi Dinarto and Titi Anggraini in *RSIS Commentary*, 21 May 2020

Global Health Security: COVID-19 and Its Impacts - Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism: A Post-Pandemic Balance?
– Terri-Anne Teo in *RSIS Commentary*, 18 May 2020

Global Health Security: COVID-19 and Its Impacts - Disinformation: The Spreading of Islamophobia
– Remy Mahzam in *RSIS Commentary*, 13 May 2020

Global Health Security: COVID-19 and Its Impacts - Backwash of Uncertainty: Exploitation or Service?
– Cameron Sumpter and Jennifer Yang Hui in *RSIS Commentary*, 12 May 2020

The ASEAN-Led Multilateral Order: Unravelling?
– Henrick Z. Tsjeng and Shawn Ho in *RSIS Commentary*, 11 May 2020

Global Health Security: COVID-19 and Its Impact - EU and ASEAN: In Common Disunity
– Alan Chong and Frederick Kliem in *RSIS Commentary*, 27 April 2020

The COVID-19 Pandemic: An Opportunity for Terrorist Groups?
– Abdul Basit in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 12, Issue 3, 23 April 2020

Key Questions for Counter-Terrorism Post-COVID-19
– Raffaello Pantucci in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 12, Issue 3, 23 April 2020

Global Health Security - War on COVID-19: More Than One Front
– Kumar Ramakrishna in *RSIS Commentary*, 15 April 2020

Global Health Security - Temporary Closure of Mosques: Sharia Flexibility in Singapore
– Mohamed Bin Ali & Ahmad Saiful Rijal Bin Hassan in *RSIS Commentary*, 13 April 2020

Global Health Security - Weaponising COVID-19: New Trend in Pandemic Era?
– Iftekharul Bashar and Kenneth Yeo Yaoren in *RSIS Commentary*, 13 April 2020

Post COVID-19 World: Will it Reshape Global Leadership?
– Benjamin Ho in *RSIS Commentary*, 6 April 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic in Indonesia: Government Response and Politics
– Alexander R. Arifianto in *RSIS Commentary*, 2 April 2020

AI and Technology Convergence: Catalyst or Irritant of Change?
– Zoe Stanley Lockman in *RSIS Commentary*, 1 April 2020

Artificial Intelligence: Empowering Smaller Navies
– Richard Bitzinger in *RSIS Commentary*, 1 April 2020

COVID-19 & Tablighi Jama'at: Religious Movements & the Need for Dialogue
– Badrol Hisham bin Ahmad Noor in *RSIS Commentary*, 31 March 2020

COVID-19: Bad Patch for Batam's Economy
– Dedi Dinarto, Adri Wanto, and Leonard C. Sebastian in *RSIS Commentary*, 30 March 2020

Global Health Security - COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons from Lee Kuan Yew
– Han Fook Kwang in *RSIS Commentary*, 26 March 2020

COVID-19 & Humanitarian Response: Leave No-One Behind
– Alistair D.B Cook in *RSIS Commentary*, 20 March 2020

China's Artificial Islands in South China Sea: Extended Forward Presence
– Ollie Suorsa in *RSIS Commentary*, 19 March 2020

Trust During the Time of COVID-19
– Joel Ng in *RSIS Commentary*, 18 March 2020

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Personal Data: Its Value, Risks and Potential
– Teo Yi-Ling in *RSIS Commentary*, 17 March 2020

Charity for "Jihad" in Syria: The Indonesian-Uyghur Connection
– Nodirbek Soliev in *RSIS Commentary*, 12 March 2020

IS Resilience in Southeast Asia?
– Jasminder Singh in *RSIS Commentary*, 20 January 2020

Rising Tensions in Natunas: Test for Indonesia's New Defence Commands
– Tiola in *RSIS Commentary*, 16 January 2020

Annual Threat Assessment of India (2019)
– Mohammed Sinan Siyech in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analysis (CTTA)*, Vol. 12, Issue 1, 6 January 2020

Debunking Jihadist Ideological Misinterpretations and Distortions
– Mahfuh Halimi and Muhammad Saiful Alam Shah in *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses (CTTA)*, Vol. 12, Issue 1, 6 January 2020

BULLETINS AND NEWSLETTERS

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

Broader Horizons
– Maritime Security Programme, RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/research/idss/centre-resources-idss/idss-rsispublishations/bulletins-and-newsletters

Counter Terrorist Trends and Analysis (CTTA)
– International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/rsis-publications/counter-terrorist-trends-and-analyses

Multilateral Matters
– Centre for Multilateralism Studies, RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/research/cms/centre-resourcescms/cms-rsispublishations/bulletins-and-newsletters

NTS Bulletin / NTS-Asia Newsletter
– Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/research/nts-centre/centre-resourcescnts/cntsrss-publications/bulletins-and-newsletters

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

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

COMMEMORATIVE/EVENT REPORTS

GNET-CENS Workshop: Online Agitators, Extremists and Counter-Messaging in Indonesia
– Report of a workshop organised by Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), 25 August 2020

Professor Bernard K. Gordon on "Southeast Asia Revisited in Trump Time"
– Professor Bernard K. Gordon was scheduled to visit RSIS this year but he has to postpone his trip because of the COVID-19 global pandemic. He shared this paper, "Southeast Asia Revisited in Trump Time", written to be used during his visit, 30 June 2020



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

Disinformation and Fake News

– Shashi Jayakumar, Benjamin Ang, and Nur Diyanah Anwar (Eds.). London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020

Life and Work in Post-Soviet Russia

– Chris Cheang. World Scientific Publishing, 2020

Buddhist Literature as Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy as Literature

– Rafal Stepień (Ed.). Albany: State University of New York Press, 2020

Rising Islamic Conservatism in Indonesia: Islamic Groups and Identity Politics

– Leonard C. Sebastian, Syafiq Hasyim, and Alexander R. Arifianto (Eds.). Routledge, 2020

The 2018 and 2019 Indonesian Elections: Identity Politics and Regional Perspectives

– Leonard C. Sebastian and Alexander R. Arifianto (Eds.). Routledge, 2020

Reconstructing Japanese Security Policy: Role of Military Crises

– Bhubhindar Singh. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020

The Army and Ideology in Indonesia: From Dwifungsi to Bela Negara

– Muhamad Haripin, Adhi Priamarizki, and Keoni Indrabayu Marzuki. Oxon: Routledge, 2020

China's Belt and Road Initiative: Impacts on Asia and Policy Agenda

– Pradumna B. Rana and Ji Xianbai. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020

Faith, Identity, Cohesion: Building a Better Future

– Jolene Jerard and Amanda Huan (Eds.). Singapore: World Scientific Publishing, 2020

Minilateralism in the Indo-Pacific: The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism, and ASEAN

– Bhubhindar Singh and Sarah Teo (Eds.). Oxon: Routledge, 2020

Bolehkah Hukum Islam Berubah Mengikut Keadaan? [Contextualisation of Islamic Law]

– Muhammad Haniff Hassan and Mustazah Bahari. Singapore: Madani Institute, 2020

Non-Traditional Security Issues in ASEAN: Agendas for Action

– Mely Caballero-Anthony and Lina Gong. Singapore: ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, 2020

Postcolonial Governmentalities: Rationalities, Violences and Contestations

– Terri-Anne Teo and Elisa Wynne-Hughes (Eds.). United Kingdom: Rowman and Littlefield International, 2020

Smart Cities in Asia: Governing Development in the Era of Hyper-Connectivity

– Joo Yu-Min and Tan Teck Boon (Eds.). United Kingdom: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2020

Critical Reflections on China's Belt & Road Initiative

– Alan Chong and Minh Pham Quang (Eds.). Palgrave Macmillan, 2020

Pathways to Contemporary Islam: New Trends in Critical Engagement

– Mohamed Nawab Mohamed Osman (Ed.). The Netherlands: Amsterdam University Press, 2020

POLICY-RELEVANT ARTICLES GIVEN RSIS AWARD¹

The U.S. Navy's RIMPAC 2020 Maneuvers Bring 20 Ships and 10 Pacific Nations Together

– Chang Jun Yan and Nicole Jenne in *The Washington Post*, 17 August 2020

Consigned to Hedge: South-east Asia and America's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" Strategy

– Tan See Seng in *International Affairs*, Vol. 96, No. 1, Chatham House, 8 January 2020

Non-traditional Security Cooperation Between China and South-East Asia: Implications for Indo-Pacific Geopolitics

– Gong Xue in *International Affairs*, Vol. 96, No. 1, Chatham House, 8 January 2020

Understanding the Dynamics of the Indo-Pacific: US-China Strategic Competition, Regional Actors, and Beyond

– Kai He and Li Mingjiang in *International Affairs*, Vol. 96, No. 1, Chatham House, 6 November 2019

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

ARTICLES

Understanding Myanmar's Buddhist Extremists: Some Preliminary Musings

– Kumar Ramakrishna in *New England Journal of Public Policy*, Vol. 32, Issue 2, Article 4, 4 November 2020

The Original Mind is the Literary Mind, the Original Body Carves Dragons

– Rafal Stepień in *Journal of Buddhist Philosophy*, No. 3. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2020

Bottom-up Peacebuilding: Role of Grassroots and Local Actors in the Mindanao Peace Process

– Julius Cesar Trajano in *Asian Journal of Peacebuilding*, Vol. 8, No. 2, November 2020

Strategic Ambiguity and the Trumpian Approach to China-Taiwan Relations

– Hoo Tiang Boon and Hannah Elyse Sworn in *International Affairs*, Vol. 96, November 2020

Why Quasi-Alliances Will Persist in the Indo-Pacific. The Fall and Rise of the Quad

– Frederick Kliem in *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*, Vol. 7, No. 3, November 2020

China's Coronavirus Fallout

– Friedrich Wu in *The International Economy*, Winter 2020: pp. 46-47, 55

Donald Trump's "Exceptional" Foreign Policy

– Evan Resnick in *Eurasia Review*, 22 October 2020

Challenges in Enhancing Indonesia's Domestic Security

– Jefferson Ng and Sigit S. Nugroho in *The Jakarta Post*, 13 October 2020

Time for Zero-tolerance Approach to Public Hygiene

– Han Fook Kwang in *The Straits Times*, 4 October 2020

Velvet Fists: The Paradox of Defence Diplomacy in Southeast Asia

– Chang Jun Yan and Nicole Jenne in *European Journal of International Security*, Vol. 5, No. 3, October 2020, pp. 332-349

Unrest in Belarus

– Chris Cheang in *Australian Institute of International Affairs*, 1 October 2020

How Southeast Asian Terror Networks Exploit Family Ties

– Amalina Abdul Nasir and Kenneth Yeo Yaoren in *The Defense Post*, 8 October 2020

The Same Old Normal for Climate Action in Post-Pandemic Southeast Asia

– Margareth Sembiring in *The National Bureau of Asian Research*, 26 September 2020

US-China Tensions: ASEAN Should Actively Address the Fallout from Their Feud

– Jikon Lai and Elina Noor in *South China Morning Post*, 16 September 2020

Bangladesh's Long Road Ahead in Countering Terrorist Fundraising

– Iftekharul Bashar in *The Diplomat*, 15 September 2020

Rebuild the UN's Legitimacy

– Joel Ng in *Council of Councils Global Memo*, Council on Foreign Relations. New York, USA, 14 September 2020

What Causes Changes in International Governance Details?: An Economic Security Perspective

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– Basil C. Bitas and Manoj Harjani in *China and the World: Ancient and Modern Silk Road*, Vol. 3, No. 4, September 2020

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 Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, Ambassador Barry Desker, Distinguished Fellow, and Professor Rajesh Basur, Visiting Professor with the South Asia Programme, over the years.

Barelvi Political Activism and Religious Mobilization in Pakistan: The Case of Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP)
– Abdul Basit in *Politics, Religion and Ideology*, Vol. 21, 30 August 2020, pp. 374-489

COVID-19 and Terrorism in the Southern Philippines: More Trouble Ahead
– Jasminder Singh and Muhammad Haziq Jani in *The Diplomat*, 26 August 2020

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– Ian Li in *The Strategy Bridge*, 24 August 2020

Data Brokers: A Weak Link in National Security
– Dymples Leong and Teo Yi-Ling in *The Diplomat*, 21 August 2020

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– Shashi Jayakumar in *The International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR) Report*, King's College London, United Kingdom, 20 August 2020

ASEAN-China Relations: Rough Seas and a Rocky Road Ahead
– Henrick Z. Tsjeng in *The Politburo*, 10 August 2020

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Is ASEAN Ready to Stand Up to China in the South China Sea?
– Lee YingHui in *East Asia Forum*, 24 July 2020

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COVID-19 and Future of Cyber Conflict
– Muhammad Faizal bin Abdul Rahman in *The Diplomat*, 17 July 2020

The Shifting Politics of Rohingya Refugees in Malaysia
– Piya Sukhani in *The Diplomat*, 10 July 2020

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– Wendy He and Haridas Ramasamy in *East Asia Forum*, 10 July 2020

Domestic Politics May Delay India's Truce with China
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Trump's Work Visa Suspension May Wind Up as Self-Sabotage
– Adrian Ang in *Channel NewsAsia Online*, 4 July 2020

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– Unaesah Rahmah in *Indonesia at Melbourne*, 1 July 2020

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– Kyler Ong and Raffaello Pantucci in *Observer Research Foundation*, 1 July 2020

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– Zhang Hongzhou in *Asia Policy*, Vol. 15, No. 3, July 2020, pp. 59-86

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– Christopher Chen and Alistair D.B Cook in *East Asia Forum*, 30 June 2020

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– Nah Liang Tuang in *East Asia Forum*, 10 June 2020

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– Ahmad Saiful Rijal bin Hassan in *Eurasia Review*, 19 May 2020

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– Phidel Vineles in *All Asia Affairs*, 19 May 2020

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– Prashant Waikar in *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 109, No. 2, May 2020, pp. 155-172

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– Amalina Anuar in *East Asia Forum*, 29 April 2020

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– Lee Su-Hyun and Byungwon Woo in *Political Studies*, 27 April 2020

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

COVID-19: Transnational Cooperation and the Epistemic Community
– Rajesh Basrur in *Takshashila Institution*, 16 April 2020

Zoom in on Ways to Keep Online Lessons Safe
– Benjamin Ang in *The Straits Times*, 11 April 2020

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– Gong Xue in *Southeast Asian Affairs 2020*. Singapore: ISEAS-Yusuf Ishak Institute, April 2020, pp. 77-98

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– Cameron Sumpter in *Journal for Deradicalization*, No. 22, 27 March 2020, pp. 97-121

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– Yang Razali Kassim in *East Asia Forum*, 25 March 2020

Extremist Charities Spread in Indonesia
– Vidia Arianti and Muh. Taufiqurrohmah in *East Asia Forum*, 17 March 2020

Areas for Improvement in ASEAN Multilateralism
– Shawn Ho in *The ASEAN Post*, 8 March 2020

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– Mohammed Sinan Siyech in *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism*, March 2020. Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 64-82

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– Ollie Suorsa in *The War On the Rocks*, 6 February 2020

Attaining Maritime Superiority in an A2/AD Era: Lessons from the Battle of Bismarck Sea
– Ben Ho in *Joint Force Quarterly*, Vol. 96, February 2020, pp. 96-104

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– Joseph Franco in *Perspectives in Terrorism*, Vol. 14, Issue 1, February 2020, pp. 3-12

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Why Support for the Islamic State Has Persisted in Southeast Asia
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Jokowi's Macron Moment: Moving Fast or Moving Together?
– Jefferson Ng in *New Mandala*, 1 January 2020

Is ASEAN Finally Getting Multilateralism Right? From ARF to ADMM+
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– Bernard Loo in *PRISM The Journal of Complex Operations*, Vol. 8, No. 3, January 2020, pp.146-157

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– Alistair D. B. Cook and Sangeetha Yogendran in *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 74, No. 1, January 2020, pp. 35-53

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 – Sarah Teo and Ralf Emmers in *Asian Politics and Policy*, Vol. 12, No. 1, January 2020, pp. 84-96

Illiberals and Autocrats Unite to Craft a New World Media Order, China and the World
 – James M. Dorsey in *China and the World*, Vol. 2, No. 4, January 2020

Indigenizing the Cold War in Malaysia and Singapore: Interethnic Decolonization, Developmental Syntheses and the Quest for Sovereignty
 – Alan Chong in *Asian Perspectives*, Vol. 44, No. 2, January 2020, pp. 179-208

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 – Wu Shang-Su in Alan Chong and Pham Quang Minh (Eds.), *Critical Reflections on China's Belt & Road Initiative*, New York: Springer, January 2020, pp. 95-122

Revisiting the Revolution in Military Logistics: Technological Enablers Twenty Years On
 – Zoe Stanley-Lockman in Margaret Kosal (Ed.), *Disruptive and Game Changing Technologies in Modern Warfare: Development, Use, and Proliferation*, Springer Nature: Switzerland, January 2020

A Small State Perspective on the Evolving Nature of Cyber Conflict: Lessons from Singapore
 – Eugene EG Tan in *PRISM*, Vol. 8, No. 3, January 2020

Social Media and the 2019 Indonesian Elections: Hoax at the Centre Stage
 – Jennifer Yang Hui in Malcolm Cook and Daljit Singh (Eds.), *Southeast Asian Affairs 2020*, Singapore: ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, January 2020, pp. 155-174

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 – Michael Raska and Richard Bitzinger in *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 14, Issue 1, January 2020, pp. 91-116

Mandates, Majorities and the Legitimacy of the Elected President
 – Kevin Tan Yew Lee in Jaclyn L Neo and Swati Jhaveri (Eds.), *Constitutional Changes in Singapore: Reforming the Elected Presidency*, London: Routledge, 9 December 2019, pp. 67-87

Annex D

RSIS Public Lectures

RSIS organises public lectures on topics of interest to shed light and generate discussion on key developments in the region and the world. The public lectures held during the year are listed in this Annex. The full listing is also available at www.rsis.edu.sg/events.



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Ngee Ann Kongsi-RSIS Distinguished Virtual Public Lecture by Dr Parag Khanna, Founder and Managing Partner, FutureMap, on "Asian Leadership in the Post-Pandemic World", 26 August 2020

Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*, on "What Ails America", organised by RSIS, 31 January 2020

RSIS Distinguished Public Dialogue with Members of the RSIS Board of Governors, Professor Michael E. Brown, Professor of International Affairs at the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, and Dr Bates Gill, Professor of Asia-Pacific Security Studies at Macquarie University, on "US Foreign Policy in a Time of Turmoil at Home and Abroad", 9 January 2020



Dr Parag Khanna

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.
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RSIS Virtual Workshop by Regional Security Architecture Programme, IDSS on "Regional Multilateralism in Uncertain Times: Past, Present, and Future", 10-11 December 2020

WSPC-RSIS Book Launch Webinar of "Life and Work in Post-Soviet Russia", co-organised by the World Scientific Publishing Co. and RSIS, 9 December 2020

CENS Webinar Series "DRUMS: Distortions, Rumours, Untruths, Misinformation, and Smears" on "Technology and Journalism - Countering Misinformation/Disinformation", 4 December 2020

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)-RSIS Webinar on "The US Presidential Election and the Implication to the East Asian Region", 3 December 2020

CENS Webinar Series "DRUMS: Distortions, Rumours, Untruths, Misinformation, and Smears" on "Health Crises, Misinformation and Disinformation", 2 December 2020

CENS Webinar Series "DRUMS: Distortions, Rumours, Untruths, Misinformation, and Smears" on "Elections, Misinformation and Disinformation", 1 December 2020

ICPVTR Webinar by Lord John Alderdice, Senior Research Fellow at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford, and a Deputy Chairman of Committees and Member of the COVID-19 Committee in the House of Lords, on "The COVID-19 Pandemic, Social Cohesion and Extremism: A Psychological Assessment", 1 December 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*, on "Does the US Need a New Security Framework/Architecture for Renewed Great Power Rivalry?", 26 November 2020

ICPVTR Webinar on "Implications of the US Withdrawal from Afghanistan", 25 November 2020

RSIS Panel Webinar on "The Courteous Power: Japan and Southeast Asia during the Suga Administration", 24 November 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Kilian Spandler on "Saving People or Saving Face? Narratives and the Humanitarian Order in Southeast Asia", 17 November 2020

RSIS-Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) Virtual Roundtable on "Middle-power Diplomacy in the New Era of US-China Competition", 17 November

RSIS-South China Sea Strategic Probing Initiative (SCSPI) Roundtable, 13 November 2020

KAS-RSIS Ministerial Forum by Ms Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, Minister of Defence, Germany, and Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defence, Singapore on "The Indo-Pacific: Geostrategic Challenges and Opportunities for Germany and Singapore", jointly hosted by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and RSIS, 13 November 2020

ICPVTR Webinar by Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna, Prof Shyam Tekwani, and Dr Sam Mullins on "Perspectives on Identity-Based Extremism in the Indo-Pacific", 11 November 2020

CSCAP Nuclear Energy Experts Group Virtual Meeting, 10-11 November 2020

RSIS Panel Webinar on "Europe in the Indo-Pacific: Middle Power Patchwork or a Common European Strategy?", organised by CMS, 10 November 2020

RSIS Webinar by Professor Caitlin Byrne, Director, Griffith Asia Institute; and Faculty Fellow, Centre for Public Diplomacy, University of Southern California, on "Between Ambition and Ambivalence: Australian Diplomacy in an Era of Strategic Change", organised by CMS, 27 October 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*, on "The Evolving US-China Strategic Competition in Technology", 23 October 2020

RSIS Panel Webinar on "Islamic Civil Society in Indonesia during Jokowi's Second Term", organised by the Indonesia Programme, IDSS, 20 October 2020

RSIS Panel Webinar on “Technology Nationalism and its Impact on Southeast Asia”, organised by CENS, 9 October 2020

RSIS Panel Webinar on “Malaysia’s Interests in the South China Sea”, organised by the Malaysia Programme, IDSS, 8 October 2020

RSIS Panel Webinar on “TNI Beyond 2024: Between Reform, Modernisation, and Regional Security Challenges”, organised by the Indonesia Programme, IDSS, 1 October 2020

RSIS Dual Book Launch Webinar of “Critical Reflections on China’s Belt and Road Initiative” and “China’s Belt and Road Initiative: Impacts on Asia and Policy Agenda”, organised by CMS, 29 September 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*, on “Nationalism, Ideology, and US-China Relations”, 24 September 2020

RSIS Webinar Series on Multilateralism Studies by Mr Murray Hiebert, Senior Associate, Southeast Asia Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), on “Analysing China’s Role in Southeast Asia Today”, organised by CMS, 21 September 2020

RSIS Panel Webinar on “COVID-19 and the World Economy”, organised by CMS, 16 September 2020

RSIS-Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Virtual Workshop on “ASEAN Mechanisms for Maritime Security Cooperation (III)”, 11 September 2020

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-RSIS-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) Webinar by Prof Shujiro Urata, Professor Emeritus of Waseda University, on “Strengthening Resilience of Supply Chains in the Indo-Pacific Region: Towards Economic Growth in the Post-Pandemic Era”, 10 September 2020

RSIS-Hinrich Foundation Webinar on “Will Deteriorating US-China Relations Precipitate Serious Military Conflict in Asia?”, 8 September 2020

RSIS Panel Webinar on “Why the Pakatan Harapan Government Fell and the Coalition’s Prospects for GE15”, organised by the Malaysia Programme, IDSS, 4 September 2020

2nd RSIS-Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) Dialogue on “International Politics and the Global Economy in the Post-pandemic World”, 1 September 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*, on “Black Lives Matter: Implications for International Relations and America’s Foreign Policy”, 28 August 2020

RSIS-MINDEF-Center for China and Globalization (CCG) Workshop on “COVID-19 and its Impact on East Asia”, 21 August 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Jamie Metzl, Founder and Chair, OneShared.World, on “Coronavirus Broke the World: How Can We Build Back Better?”, organised by the Policy Studies Group, 20 August 2020

RSIS-ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA) Centre World Humanitarian Day Webinar on “Humanitarian Assistance in Southeast Asia during COVID-19”, 19 August 2020

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-RSIS-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) Webinar by Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head NTS Centre, on “COVID-19 in Asia: Navigating Geopolitical Risks amid Unprecedented Disruptions”, 18 August 2020

RSIS Webinar Series on Multilateralism Studies by Dr Olaf Wientzek, Director, Geneva Office, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), on “World Trade Organization (WTO): Between COVID, Reform Debate and a New Leadership”, 14 August 2020

CENS Webinar Series “Age of Rages” on “Whither Civic Nationalism in South Asia?”, 11 August 2020

CMS Webinar Series “ASEAN’s Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, COVID-19 and the Future of ASEAN Centrality” on “ASEAN Centrality in the Indo-Pacific: Forecasting Trajectories”, 6 August 2020

CMS Webinar Series “ASEAN’s Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, COVID-19 and the Future of ASEAN Centrality” on “ASEAN and the AOIP – The Role of Multilateralism and Defence Diplomacy”, 5 August 2020

NTS-Asia Webinar on “COVID-19 and Economic Crisis: Mitigating Impact and Sustaining Development in Asia”, 5 August 2020

ICPVTR Webinar by Dr Bruce Hoffman and Mr Jacob Ware on “Understanding Incels: Angry Young Men or Terrorist Movement?”, 5 August 2020

CMS Webinar Series “ASEAN’s Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, COVID-19 and the Future of ASEAN Centrality” on “Multilateralism after COVID-19”, 4 August 2020

SAF Day 2020 Webinar on “Singapore’s Security Outlook in the Post-COVID World”, organised by the Military Studies Programme, IDSS, 30 July 2020

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)-RSIS-National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) Webinar by His Excellency Dr R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Member, UN Secretary General’s High Level Advisory Board on Mediation; and Foreign Minister of Indonesia (2009 – 2014), on “Post-Pandemic Indo-Pacific: Prospect for Regional Cooperation”, 28 July 2020

Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF)-RSIS Distinguished Virtual Forum on “Leveraging the Effects of the Pandemic Towards Regional Cooperation in Asia”, 28 July 2020

RSIS-World Scientific Publishing Co. (WSPC) Virtual Book Launch of “Faith, Identity, Cohesion: Building a Better Future”, 21 July 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*, on “US Korea Policy: The Persistence of Failure”, 17 July 2020

CENS Webinar on “Protests, Participation, Fake News: What’s Going on?”, 15 July 2020

CENS Webinar Series “Age of Rages” on “Civic Nationalism and the Challenges of Integration”, 14 July 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*, on “How We Have Misunderstood Islamist Terrorism”, 8 July 2020

ICPVTR Webinar on “Terror Threat in United Kingdom: From Syria to Lone Actors”, 7 July 2020

ICPVTR Webinar on “Salafism in Batam: Are There Any Red Flags?”, 3 July 2020

Webinar by Professor Robert C. Beckman, Head, Ocean Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law (CIL); and Adjunct Senior Fellow, Maritime Security Programme, Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies, RSIS, on “Passage Regimes through Archipelagic States in Southeast Asia”, organised by the Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, 29 June 2020

CENS Webinar Series “Age of Rages” on “Nationalism and Religion”, 16 June 2020

NTS Centre Webinar on “COVID-19 and its Impacts on the Women of Southeast Asia”, 15 June 2020

RSIS-Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) Roundtable, organised by MIMA, and the Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, 10 June 2020

RSIS-Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation (APPF) Roundtable, organised by APPF, The Philippines, and the Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, 9 June 2020

Virtual Roundtable with Dr Hamidin Abdul Hamid and Dato’ Mazri Muhammad on “UMNO at the Crossroads: Implications for Malaysian Politics”, organised by the Malaysia Programme, IDSS, 4 June 2020

RSIS-South China Sea Strategic Probing Initiative (SCSPI) Virtual Roundtable, organised by the Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, and SCSPI, Peking University, 3 June 2020

NTS Centre Webinar on “Humanitarian Futures in the Post-COVID-19 World”, 3 June 2020

CENS Webinar Series “Age of Rages” on “Nationalism and the Far Right”, 2 June 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*, on “Never Waste a Crisis: Reform Opportunities in the Post-COVID-19 Era”, 22 May 2020

CENS Webinar Series “Age of Rages” on “Nationalisms in Hong Kong and China”, 19 May 2020

ICPVTR Webinar on “COVID-19 and the Evolving Terrorist Threat: Challenge and Response”, 18 May 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*, on “Net Assessment: How to Think About Major Discontinuities in the Global Order”, 15 May 2020

RSIS Webinar by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*, on “‘Bad Arguments Never Die’: Why Effective National Responses to Pandemic Crises Have Nothing to Do with Regime Type or Governmental Size”, 8 May 2020

CENS Webinar on “Lessons from the Cyber Past & Information Sharing for Better Security”, 16 April 2020

RSIS Roundtable with Ambassador Joseph Yun, RSIS Distinguished Visitor; and Senior Advisor at The Asia Group and at the US Institute of Peace (Former US Department of State Special Representative for North Korea Policy), on “US and DPRK: What Next?”, 19 February 2020

RSIS Roundtable with Ambassador Joseph Yun, RSIS Distinguished Visitor; and Senior Advisor at The Asia Group and at the US Institute of Peace (Former US Department of State Special Representative for North Korea Policy), on “US Policy Options for North Korea”, 17 February 2020

RSIS Roundtable by Mr David Martin, Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS; and Co-Convener, Citizens’ Assembly of Scotland, on “Can Britain survive BREXIT?: Economic and Constitutional Challenges in Post-Brexit Britain”, 12 February 2020

5th SRP Executive Programme I on “Conflict Prevention and Resolution in an Age of Religious Violence”, organised by SRP Programme, 10-12 February 2020

Workshop on “Military-Civil Fusion and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army”, organised by the China Programme, IDSS, 7 February 2020

Nuclear Energy Expert Group Meeting, organised by NTS Centre and the Pacific Forum, 6-7 February 2020

RSIS Seminar by Mr David Martin, Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS; and Co-Convener, Citizens’ Assembly of Scotland, on “The United Kingdom/European Union Trade Deal: Lesson’s from the Singapore/European Union Free Trade Agreement”, 5 February 2020

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RSIS Seminar by Professor Richard W. Hu, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS; and UM Development Foundation Distinguished Professor and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Macau, on "Revisionism and the Evolution of International Order", 30 January 2020

RSIS Seminar by Professor Richard W. Hu, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS; and UM Development Foundation Distinguished Professor and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Macau, on "The US Indo-Pacific Strategy and China's Response", 29 January 2020

RSIS Seminar by Brig Feroz H. Khan (Ret.), Naval Postgraduate Academy; and Dr Sameer Lalwani, Stimson Center, on "Strategic Stability and Escalation in South Asia", organised by South Asia Programme, IDSS, 22 January 2020

RSIS Seminar by Professor Hu Bo, Director, Centre for Maritime Strategy Studies, and Research Professor, Institute of Ocean Research, Peking University; and Director, South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative, on "China's Maritime Rise and its Implications to the World", 16 January 2020

Conference on "Regional Maritime Security Outlook 2020", organised by the Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, 14-15 January 2020

RSIS Seminar by Dr Adam Garfinkle, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; and Founding Editor of *The American Interest*; and Associate Professor Ahmed Hashim, Head of Horizon Threats and Strategies, IDSS, on "The Killing of Qassem Soleimani: Motives and Implications", 14 January 2020

RSIS-South China Sea Strategic Probing Initiative (SCSPI) Roundtable, organised by the Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, and SCSPI, Peking University, 13 January 2020

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In Appreciation

We thank everyone who has contributed to this Annual Review.

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Ponder the Improbable



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