



# Australian Institute of International Affairs *Victoria*

THE 2020-21 YEAR IN REVIEW

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SPEAKER EVENTS/WEBINARS

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## **Speaker Events and Webinars Year to June 2021**

Our mission is to broaden the knowledge of international affairs throughout Australia and in particular, Victoria.

During the 2020-21 financial year AIIA Victoria organised 46 speaker events and webinars, attended by over 4,000 members and guests.

COVID-19 of course continued to affect our ability to host face-to-face events, but the webinar program has all been well-received and has enabled an international audience and speakers to participate.

Our events covered both countries and international issues in equal measure. You can see the breadth of our coverage in the following booklet.

Brexit, US foreign policy, US-China tensions, peace operations and the international order, and Australia's international challenges were some of the issues discussed. The UK and the EU featured strongly as did India, Taiwan, Russia, China and the wider Indo-Pacific. A four-part *South Asia Seminar* series was a success and opened up a wider corporate audience to us.

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions neither the International Careers Conference nor the Sir Zelman Cowen Oration were able to be held this year.

Many, many people must be thanked for making all this possible. I would like to thank our Council, our interns, and volunteers. But above all, our speakers for devoting their time to these events, and our members for their interest and support.

**Richard Iron CMG, OBE**  
President

Dyason House  
9 September 2021





# Bolsonaro: Trump of the Tropics?

Dr. Deborah Barros Leal Farias, UNSW Sydney

Thursday 9 July: 5pm-6pm AEST

Webinar

Jair Bolsonaro took office as president of Brazil on January 1st, 2019. Since then, his presidency has generated high levels of controversy and polarisation – even by the country's own standards.



He has frequently been compared to US President Donald Trump, due to their styles of communication, worldview, and populist approach to politics in general.

**As Brazil's COVID-19** death toll rises to become **the world's** second-highest, how is Bolsonaro handling the crisis? And how has the health emergency reduced environmental authorities' capacity to police deforestation in the Amazon, another issue of global concern? Is Brazilian democracy itself under threat?

AIIA Victoria invites you join Dr. Deborah Barros Leal Farias to discuss these issues in the current context of Brazilian politics.



*Deborah Barros Leal Farias is Lecturer of Politics and International Relations at UNSW's School of Social Sciences. Prior to Australia, she spent 10 years in Canada, obtaining a PhD in Political Science (UBC) and working as a Trade Analyst in the Consulate General of Brazil in Vancouver. Since 2000, she has worked as a policy analyst and lectured at various universities in Brazil and Canada. She has a bachelor degree in Economy, another in Law, and an MA in International Relations*

*– all from Brazilian institutions. Her main areas of interest involve developing and rising powers – particularly Brazil.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Thursday 9 July at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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# Norway's UN Security Council Role

HE Mr Paul Gulleik Larsen, Ambassador of Norway

Tuesday 14 July: 5.30pm-6.30pm AEST

Webinar

Norway has been elected as one of the new non-permanent members of the UN Security Council and will take up its seat from 1 January 2021 until December 2022.

Norway will draw on its long experience of peace **diplomacy to strengthen the Security Council's** conflict prevention and resolution efforts. It will focus on enhancing the protection of civilians, promoting the role and participation of women in international peace and security, and highlighting the links between security and sustainable development, including security concerns related to climate change.



Over the past three decades as a peace broker, specialising in mediation aimed at conflicts from Colombia to Sri Lanka, the Philippines and the Middle East, Norway has been hailed for its efforts in conflict resolution, and its support for multilateral alliances. This election comes at a time when interest in UN politics has been renewed by the Covid-19 pandemic and fundamental questions arise of what a renewed global order will look like.

As the multilateral system is challenged by large countries withdrawing their support for engagement on the world stage, what can smaller nations do to shape the debate? How can Australia support Norway in seeking solutions for a common future?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Ambassador Larsen **to discuss Norway's aims** and aspirations as a UN Security Council member.

*HE Mr Paul Gulleik Larsen is a career diplomat with 27 years of international experience, including Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs postings in Belgrade (as Chargé d'Affaires 1991-1994), in New York (as Counsellor for Norway in the UN Security Council 2001-2002), and in Moscow (as Deputy Head of Mission 2002-2007). Outside the MFA, Paul has served as diplomatic advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister of Norway in 1998-1999, and as Chief of Staff and Director at the UN World Food Program (WFP) in Rome 2007-2013. While at WFP, Paul sat in the Strategic Leadership Group and represented WFP in G8, G20 and UN inter-agency bodies. After returning to MFA in Oslo in 2013, Paul served in the UN Department as Project Director for policy and coordination of Agenda 2030/SDG and as Special Envoy for Security Council Affairs, responsible for strategy and policy for preparing Norway's membership of the UN Security Council in 2021-22. As Ambassador of Norway in Canberra from September 2018, Paul is responsible for Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu and Cook Islands. Paul has a Master of Science degree from the London School of Economics and a B.A. from the University of Oslo. He received the French Ordre du Mérite Agricole during the French G20 presidency in 2011.*

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# Why has the UK Dropped Foreign Policy from Brexit Negotiations?

Professor Richard G. Whitman

Thursday 23 July: **5.30pm-6.30pm** AEST

**Webinar**

EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier has **expressed his frustration at the UK's refusal to** discuss future cooperation on foreign policy, development and defence.

Such a position is a direct departure from the political declaration outlining the ambitions for the post-Brexit future relationship, agreed by both the EU and UK government alongside the withdrawal agreement in October 2019.



With its current focus on the terms of the EU-UK trade and market access relationship, the UK government is no longer pursuing agreement with the EU on foreign, security and defence policy. It believes it has better alternatives for pursuing its international objectives.

What explains this shift in position? What are the consequences of failing to reach an agreement on foreign, security and defence policy? And how might the UK pursue partnerships and initiatives beyond the EU?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Professor Richard Whitman, Director of the Global Europe Centre and Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent, and Associate Fellow at Chatham House, to discuss the EU-UK foreign policy relationship.



*Professor Richard G. Whitman MA PhD FAcSS is Director of the Global Europe Centre and Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent. He is also an Associate Fellow and former Head of the Europe Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House). His current research interests include Brexit and especially the future foreign and security and defence policies of the UK and the EU. He is the author and editor of eleven books, and over sixty articles and book chapters, on European integration and UK foreign and security policy. He is a lead editor of the Journal of Common Market Studies (JCMS) – the longest established international academic journal covering the politics and economics of European integration. He was elected as an Academician of the UK Academy of Social Sciences in 2007 and was the 2017-2018 elected Chair of the British International Studies Association (BISA). He has also been appointed as an Academic Fellow of the European Policy Centre (EPC).*

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## Russia's Greater Eurasia Initiative

Dr Glenn Diesen, University of South-Eastern Norway

Thursday 30 July: 5pm-6pm AEST

Webinar

Vladimir Putin announced the Russian government's desire for a greater Eurasian partnership at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum in June 2016. He proposed the formation of an economic partnership between the Eurasian Economic Union member states, ASEAN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.



The objective is to bridge the vast Eurasian continent to reposition Russia from the periphery of Europe and Asia to the centre of a new constellation. Moscow's 'Greater Europe' ambition of previous decades produced a failed Western-centric foreign policy culminating in excessive dependence on the West. Instead of constructing the 'Common European Home' espoused by former Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, it deprived Russia of the market value and leverage needed to negotiate a more favourable and inclusive Europe.

Eurasian integration offers Russia the opportunity to address this 'overreliance' on the West by using Russia's position as a Eurasian state to advance its influence in Europe.

But what role does China's Belt and Road Initiative now play? And how will a post-COVID economy affect these aspirations?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Diesen to discuss both Russian responses and adaptations to the current power transition, and the ways in which the economic initiatives promoted by Moscow in its project for a 'Greater Eurasia' reflect the entrepreneurial foreign policy strategy of the country.



*Dr Glenn Diesen is an Associate Professor at the University of South-Eastern Norway, an editor at the Russia in Global Affairs journal, and an affiliate at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow. Dr Diesen specialises in the geoeconomics of **Russia's** Greater Eurasia Initiative and the resurgence of Russian conservatism. He is the author of Russian Conservatism: Managing Change under Permanent Revolution (forthcoming); Great Power Politics in the Fourth Industrial Revolution: The Geoeconomics of Technological Sovereignty (forthcoming); Russia in a Changing World (2020); The Decay of Western Civilisation and Resurgence of Russia (2019); **Russia's Geoeconomic Strategy for a Greater Eurasia (2017); and EU and NATO Relations with Russia (2015).***

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# The Outlook for Nuclear Disarmament

Tim Wright, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

**Thursday 6 August: 5pm-6pm AEST**

**Webinar**

August 6 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first atomic bombing, at Hiroshima.

75 years on, the world still faces the grave threat of the existence of nuclear weapons.

The US has pulled out of the nuclear deal with Iran, and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty collapsed last year. The last remaining arms-control treaty between the US and Russia, the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), will expire in February 2021.



Now the US has indicated that it might resume testing of nuclear weapons. That would be highly provocative to Russia and China, not to mention North Korea.

On 7 July 2017 – following a decade of advocacy by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and its partners – **an overwhelming majority of the world's nations adopted a** landmark global agreement to ban nuclear weapons, known officially as the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It will enter into legal force once 50 nations have signed and ratified it.

What are the prospects for extending the New START treaty? How is the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons progressing? **What is Australia's position?**

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Tim Wright, Treaty Coordinator of ICAN to discuss the outlook for nuclear disarmament.



*Tim Wright is Treaty Coordinator of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons". He helped establish ICAN in 2006 and has served the campaign in various capacities since then. His current role involves coordinating efforts to secure signatures and ratifications for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which 122 countries voted to adopt at the United Nations in 2017.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Thursday 6 August at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

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# Women in International Affairs

## Seeta Giri, Humanitarian Advisory Group

Wednesday 19 August: 5pm - 6pm AEST

Webinar

World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held every year on 19 August to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world.

### **It's hard to put into words exactly what**

humanitarians encounter on the job. The impact that they have. The lives they change. The personal sacrifices they make. **It's a job where there really is**

**no 'switching off' – in emergency situations, there are no half days or overtime.**



**AIIA Victoria's** *Women in International Affairs* series celebrates the achievements of women in international relations, reflects critically on the barriers women face, and meets extraordinary women currently forging careers in the international arena.

To mark World Humanitarian Day, AIIA Victoria invites you to join Seeta Giri, a world expert on post-crisis response and recovery to speak about her career journey and its highlights.



*Seeta Giri is Regional Advisor, Asia at [Humanitarian Advisory Group](#) and has worked progressively for over twenty years in various policy advisory and programme management positions with the United Nations and INGO. She comes with a comprehensive background in the field of Climate Change, Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery. Seeta has over 14 years of field-based experience leading post crisis response and recovery work with the United Nations in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Nepal and Pakistan. Among other professional affiliations with universities and research institutions, Seeta is currently serving as a member to the Advisory Board of the Culture and Disaster Action Network ([CADAN](#)).*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 19 August at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

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## Meet the Diplomat: **Australia's Ambassador for Gender Equality**

HE Ms Julie-Ann Guivarra

Thursday 27 August: 5pm-6pm AEST

Webinar

Diplomacy is often conflated with foreign policy, but the terms are not synonymous.

Diplomacy is a fundamental instrument of foreign policy, which itself is set by political leaders. **A state's** foreign policy establishes goals, prescribes strategies, and sets tactics to be used to ensure their accomplishment.

Diplomacy is the most important institution of our society of states. **Diplomacy's main aim** is to enable states to secure their foreign policy objectives without resorting to force. Its primary tools are international dialogue and negotiation. **Its success for any country is influenced by both the country's hard and soft power** with diplomats playing an important role in the projection of soft power.



*Photo Credit: Asialink – University of Melbourne*

In the **next of AIIA Victoria's Meet the Diplomat** series, HE Ms Julie-Ann Guivarra, the first indigenous woman to represent Australia as an Ambassador, discusses her role in **advocating for women and girls' equal participation in political, economic and social affairs; the role of indigenous culture as part of Australia's soft diplomacy; the benefits of DFAT's [Women in Leadership Strategy](#)** and the gender impacts of COVID in the Indo-Pacific.



*HE Ms Julie-Ann Guivarra is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade where she served most recently as Australia's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, Andorra and Equatorial Guinea. In this role Ms Guivarra became Australia's first female indigenous Ambassador. Prior to that appointment she served as Australia's lead services negotiator for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) while she was Assistant Secretary of the South East Asia Investment & Services Branch. She has multilateral experience, serving as the Counsellor (Agriculture) in the World Trade Organisation. Her overseas postings include New Delhi, Geneva and Madrid and in Canberra she has also served as the Assistant Secretary of the South East Asia Analytical and Effectiveness Branch.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Thursday 27 August at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC +10).

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# Ending War: Lessons from Somaliland

Richard Iron CMG OBE in conversation with Dr Sarah Phillips

Wednesday 2 September: 5pm-6pm AEST

Webinar

In a region long beset by political strife and inter-state rivalries, Somaliland stands out as a beacon of hope in the Horn of Africa – stable, relatively democratic and broadly functional.

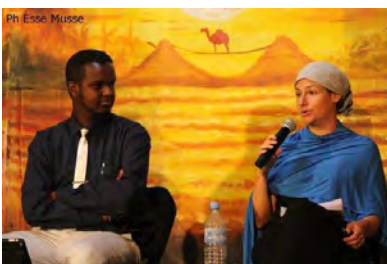
Unlike neighbouring Somalia, from which it declared unilateral independence in 1991, Somaliland received little of the international aid and support that post-conflict zones typically attract.



Instead, argues Dr Sarah Phillips in [\*When There Was No Aid: War and Peace in Somaliland\*](#) (Cornell University Press, 2020), the lack of external intervention meant that the country was able to fashion innovative models blending Western governance with local customs. Somaliland provides a rare example of peacebuilding without international involvement.

What does the Somaliland experience tell us about the (in)effectiveness of international assistance in advancing peace and development? What has contributed to its relative stability? And what lessons can be drawn from the role that women can play in solving intractable conflicts?

In the next of his acclaimed *In Conversation* series, Richard Iron is joined by Dr Sarah Phillips to explore the role of war in peace, the limitations of international responses to peacebuilding, and the importance of local discourse in building and maintaining peace.



*Sarah Phillips is an Associate Professor in international security and development at The University of Sydney. Her research draws on in-depth fieldwork, and focuses on international intervention in the global south, knowledge production in conflict-affected states, state-building, and non-state governance, with a geographic focus on the Arabian Peninsula and Horn of Africa. Sarah is the author of three books and is published widely in top-tiered academic journals, including International Studies Quarterly, the European Journal of International Relations,*

*African Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and International Affairs. Sarah has been awarded a number of prestigious competitive grants, including three from the Australian Research Council (one examining state-formation and external finance in Somalia/Somaliland, another on the organisational dynamics of maritime pirate organisations and, most recently, a project that will explore perceptions of terrorist groups in conflict-affected states).*

*Richard Iron CMG OBE served in the British Army in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Oman, the Balkans, Sierra Leone and Iraq. He was a visiting fellow at the Changing Character of War programme at the University of Oxford and was lead editor of British Generals in Blair's Wars.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 2 September at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

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# Empathy on the Ballot

Dr. Claire Yorke, Yale University

Tuesday 8 September: 5.30pm-6.30pm AEST

Webinar

Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, economic crisis, and national protests, Joe Biden's presidential campaign champions ideas of empathy to heal divisions in American society.

The concept was a central feature of speeches given at the virtual Democratic Convention and, with its positive connotations, empathy offers a vision of an Administration committed to greater understanding, inclusion, and unity.



Yet for it to be effective, empathy has to be more than rhetorical, and involves the hard-work and concerted practice of bridging divides.

Empathy is integral to effective leadership, but is often undervalued, or dismissed as incompatible with politics. Why is empathy so important? How can it transform societies? And what are the costs and compromises that it will entail?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Claire Yorke to discuss both the strengths and limitations of empathy in international affairs, and to explore what empathy means for different forms of leadership.



*Claire Yorke is a Researcher at International Security Studies and the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University, where she has recently completed a two-year Henry A. Kissinger Postdoctoral Fellowship. Her research and book projects explore the role and limitations of empathy and emotions in international affairs, diplomacy, leadership and policy-making. Alongside her research she lectures and teaches at university and has recently designed a professional online course for mid-level managers on 'Empathy and Emotions in Policy-Making' with the International School for Government at King's College London. She received her PhD in International Relations from the Department of War Studies, King's College London, and has a Masters from the University of Exeter, and a BA from Lancaster University.*

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# Australian Institute of International Affairs *Victoria*

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# US Presidential Election: Into the Final Straight

Sara James, Emmy Award-winning foreign correspondent

Wednesday 9 September: 5pm-6pm AEST

Webinar

Following the first-ever virtual Democratic and Republican National Conventions, the US election is at a critical juncture. Joe Biden and Donald Trump are at the height of their campaigns, presenting radically contrasting visions for **the future of America's democracy**.



The Democratic Convention **focused on Biden's empathetic character and extensive political experience in comparison to Trump's, offering Biden as a 'light amongst the darkness'**. Meantime, the Republican Convention criticised the Democrats' 'radically leftist policies' **and promised a continuation of Trump's law and order approach to politics**.

As Americans are increasingly concerned with the pandemic, the state of the economy and nationwide protests, **November's** presidential election comes at a divisive, yet pivotal time. With both Biden and Trump believing they represent the 'light', the election represents an important crossroad in US politics.

**How will Trump's law and order platform fare next to Biden's approach based on empathy and inclusion?** How will the pandemic affect voter turnout and voter preference? And what are the next stages in the election process?

AIIA Victoria is delighted to welcome back Sara James to provide her insights.



*Sara James is an Emmy Award-winning foreign correspondent, author and commentator. She has covered significant news events in Australasia for NBC, CNN and PBS, and her featured segment **An American in Oz** airs fortnightly on ABC News Breakfast. Among her many NBC assignments in the region, Sara has reported on the 2019 White Island volcano eruption in Whakatane, the 2019 mosque shootings in Christchurch, the 2012 tour of Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge to Singapore, Malaysia and the Solomon Islands, the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch and the 2009 Black Saturday bush fires near her home in Victoria. Prior to moving to Australia in 2008, Sara was based in New York City for NBC News for more than a decade. Her reporting duties took her to all fifty of the United States and around the world, including Somalia, Sudan, Bosnia, Israel, China, Japan and the Khyber Pass. She served as substitute newsreader on the NBC Today Show, was a frequent co-anchor of Weekend Today and often anchored MSNBC. Sara has earned many prestigious awards for her reports on some of the biggest international stories of our era, including the National Press Club award for her investigation of modern day slavery in Sudan, a New York Festival award for her report on the first woman considered for the US space program, and a coveted Emmy Award for her coverage of the massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado. She received a Headliner Award for her report on a victim of the September 11 attacks, and a Gracie for her story about **methamphetamine addiction in women**. **Sara's report on Australia's Stolen Generation won the Overseas Press Club of America Citation for Excellence**. Sara is the author of *An American in Oz*, co-author of *The Best of Friends* and editor of *An Extraordinary School*.*

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## Meet the Diplomat: The United Nations

Carlisle Richardson, former Ambassador to UN

Wednesday 23 September: 5pm-6pm AEST

Webinar

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Diplomacy is a fundamental instrument of foreign policy, which itself is set by political leaders. A **state's foreign policy establishes goals, prescribes strategies, and sets tactics to be used to ensure their accomplishment.**

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In the next of AIIA Victoria's *Meet the Diplomat* series, Carlisle Richardson, former Ambassador of St. Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations discusses his experience representing his country at the UN; working on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and preparing for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.



*Carlisle Richardson is a former Ambassador of St. Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations and a former Economic Affairs Officer of the United Nations. As an Ambassador at the UN he worked on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the preparations for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. He organised a number of events as Economic Affairs Officer, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and the negotiating process for the SDGs. Currently he is the Special Advisor to ICLEI Oceania on Small Island Developing States, and a Board Member of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA), Victorian Division. He is the author of Island Journeys: The Impact of the Island Way of Life at Home and Abroad.*

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# Israel-UAE Peace Agreement: Implications for the Region

Professor Clive Jones, Durham University

Tuesday 29 September: 5.30pm-6.30pm AEST

Webinar

The UAE and Israel have concluded a historic peace agreement, establishing full diplomatic relations through the US-brokered Abraham Accord. The UAE is now the first Gulf country and third Arab state to recognise Israel, representing a significant development in the region's relations.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has deemed the **agreement the 'greatest advancement towards peace between Israel and the Arab world in the last 26 years', claiming to allow Israel and the Palestinians to 'suspend' their conflict and enter into new discussions regarding the West Bank.**



Yet many Palestinians **see the agreement as a 'betrayal'**, further isolating and weakening the Palestinian movement regionally and internationally. Instead, the normalisation of ties has been better understood as an effort **to counter Iran's growing power and influence in the region.**

How will the peace agreement affect the power balance in the Middle East? Could this deal be a catalyst for other Arab Gulf **monarchies to follow the UAE's lead?** And will this agreement reshape relations in the Middle East that have long been defined by an on-going Arab/Israeli conflict?

AIIA Victoria is delighted to welcome Professor Clive Jones to discuss the Israel-UAE peace agreement and its implications for the region.



*Clive Jones is Professor of Regional Security in the School of Government and International Affairs at Durham University. His research interests include International Relations, Middle East studies and security studies, with a particular focus on Israel/Palestine and the Gulf. Clive is a prolific author, his latest book being [Fraternal Enemies: Israel and the Gulf Monarchies](#) (Hurst, 2020), and is published widely in top-tiered academic journals, including The Middle East Journal, Middle Eastern Studies, International Affairs, Journal of Strategic Studies, Intelligence and National Security, and Studies in Conflict and Terrorism. Clive has been awarded a number of prestigious positions, having been elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Historical Society (2013-2016) and the Chair of the European Association of Israel Studies (2018). In 2018 he was awarded a Visiting Research Chair at NTNU, Trondheim, Norway.*

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## 2020 AIIA VIC Essay Competition

### Postgraduate Category

Submission deadline 1 September 2020

Have you just spent the last several months writing a series of essays for blogs or different politics, international relations, social science, or humanities subjects? Have you been dreaming about Marx and Arendt and Mearsheimer and Waltz? Not entirely sure where to direct that ability to get a 1000-word essay written in under twelve hours **because you've been** procrastinating for three weeks?

AIIA VIC is recognising that impressive ability and giving you **the chance to put your skills to the test! We're looking for the** best 1,000-word response to the question:

**"What is the single biggest challenge to the current international system?"**



The prize for the best essay will be a 12-month Student Membership to AIIA VIC, where you will have free access to our regular events and webinars, online access to the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and unique networking opportunities.

#### Competition Rules:

- To participate you must register for the 2020 AIIA VIC Essay Competition via [<link>](#)
- Entries open to **postgraduate students at a Victorian university only**.
- Include your name, contact number and email, course, and university within the document.
- Entries must respond to the question, **"What is the single biggest challenge to the current international system?"**.
- Entries should reference using an accepted referencing system and include a bibliography
- Entries should be of 1,000 words, plus or minus 5 percent (in-text citations not included in overall word count)
- Academic rules apply, so no plagiarism!
- One entry per person and must be submitted in PDF format via email to [events.vic@internationalaffairs.org.au](mailto:events.vic@internationalaffairs.org.au) by 11:59pm, Tuesday 1 September 2020
- The winner will be notified by email or phone call on or before 8 September 2020

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# The Kurds in a Fragmenting Middle East

William Gourlay, Monash University

Tuesday 13 October 2020: 5.30pm-6.30pm AEDT

Webinar

Kurdish political fortunes continue to fluctuate. Living across the mountainous border regions of Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Syria, the Kurds were rendered stateless at the end of WWI.

Through the 20<sup>th</sup> century Kurds endured a range of coercive measures from state regimes, prompting diverse political responses and giving rise to the 'Kurdish question'.

From the 1990s, however, the ground began to shift. Kurdish political actors in Turkey gained traction and a Kurdish autonomous region germinated in northern Iraq. During the struggle against ISIS, Kurdish groups in Syria and Iraq won international legitimacy and gained territory.



The pendulum now appears to have swung back against Kurdish interests. An increasingly authoritarian regime in Turkey clamps down on Kurdish political activity. In northern Syria, a Kurdish-led administration remains cornered between Assad's army and neighbouring Turkey, and the Iraqi Kurdish regime is beset by internal and external challenges. Despite being generally seen as allies of the West, Kurds remain at the mercy of powerful regional interests.

AIIA Victoria welcomes William Gourlay to examine the plight(s) and prospects of Kurds in Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq and to explore where the solution(s) to the long-running 'Kurdish question' might lie.

*William Gourlay teaches Politics and International Relations at Monash University and is a Research Associate in the Middle East Studies Forum at Deakin University. In 2016, he completed his PhD at Monash, an examination of Kurdish identity in Turkey. His research interests include the **clash of 'resistance politics' and authoritarianism, and issues of ethnicity, nationalism and majority-minority relationships in the Middle East.** His monograph [The Kurds in Erdoğan's Turkey](#) was published by Edinburgh University Press in 2020. He has published research in The British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Ethnopolitics and Third World Quarterly, among others. His commentary and analysis appears in a number of outlets including The Australian Financial Review, The Conversation, EurasiaNet and OpenDemocracy. He has previously worked as an editor, journalist and teacher in London, İzmir (Turkey) and his native Melbourne.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Tuesday 13 October at 3pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5.30pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# On All Fronts - The Education of a Journalist

CNN Chief International Correspondent Clarissa Ward  
in conversation with Richard Iron CMG OBE

Monday 19 October 2020: 6pm-7pm AEDT

Webinar

The recipient of multiple Peabody and Murrow awards, CNN Chief International Correspondent Clarissa Ward is a world-renowned conflict reporter.

In this age of crisis where there really is no front line, she has moved from one hot zone to the next. With multiple assignments in Syria, Egypt, and Afghanistan, Ward, who speaks seven languages, has been based in Baghdad, Beirut, Beijing, Damascus and Moscow.

Finding her calling as an international war correspondent in the aftermath of 9/11, she has seen and documented the violent remaking of the world at close range, while staying empathetic to the stories of those who do not have a voice of their own.

[On All Fronts: The Education of a Journalist](#) (Penguin Press, September 2020) immerses the reader not only in multiple international conflicts but in the toll and sacrifices involved with international reporting.



In the next of his acclaimed *In Conversation* series, Richard Iron talks to Clarissa Ward about her love of journalism, the importance of human connection and the essential value of on the ground reporting.

*Clarissa Ward is CNN's chief international correspondent. In her fifteen-year career spanning Fox, CBS, and ABC, Ward has reported from front lines across the world. She has won five Emmy Awards, two George Foster Peabody Awards, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, two Edward R. Murrow Awards for distinguished journalism, honours from the Radio and Television Correspondents' Association, the 2016 David Kaplan Award from the Overseas Press Club, and the Excellence in International Reporting Award from the International Center for Journalists. She graduated with distinction from Yale University, and in 2013 received an honorary doctor of letters degree from Middlebury College in Vermont.*

*Richard Iron CMG OBE served in the British Army in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Oman, the Balkans, Sierra Leone and Iraq. He was a visiting fellow at the Changing Character of War programme at the University of Oxford and was lead editor of British Generals in Blair's Wars.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Monday 19 October at 3pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 6pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

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# From a Tin Shed to the United Nations

Stephanie Woollard OAM, Founder & CEO Seven Women Nepal

Wednesday 4 November 2020: 5.30pm-6.30pm AEDT

Webinar

On a trip to Nepal, a 22 year-old Stephanie Woollard stumbled across 7 disabled women living in a tin shed in Kathmandu and heard their stories of suffering and stigma.

Using her last \$200, she paid for training for the women to learn new skills, which in turn empowered them to earn money, become independent and transform their lives.

Her visionary leadership led her to start an organisation called *Seven Women*, which has now educated, trained and employed over 5,000 disabled and marginalised women in Nepal through education, skills training and employment pathways. Women employed by the enterprises Stephanie has created now export fair trade products internationally and run a cooking school and guesthouse which target the tourist market in Nepal.



In the next of its series on *Women in International Affairs*, AIIA Victoria invites you to join Stephanie Woollard to hear how 'trade not aid' has empowered so many, and how individual actions can play a part in creating a more inclusive and just world.



*Stephanie Woollard OAM is founder and CEO of [Seven Women](#) and [Hands On Development](#), a social enterprise travel company that organises cultural immersion tours to Nepal. In 2016 Stephanie was presented with the Rotary International Responsible Business Award at the United Nations in New York, followed by the Woman of the Decade Award **at the Women's Economic Forum in New Delhi** in 2017. In 2019 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the general division, for her service to the international community through humanitarian aid. [From a Tin Shed to the United Nations](#) (2017) tells the story of the founding of Seven Women and is a call to action for social justice.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 4 November at 3pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5.30pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# American Foreign Policy after the Election

Professor Bruce W. Jentleson, Duke University

Thursday 5 November 2020: 12.30pm-1.30pm AEDT

Webinar

The only times that foreign policy has been a significant issue in contemporary presidential elections have been during wars, or major international crises. But to say that foreign policy is electorally less important than domestic policy is not to say that it is unimportant.

Whatever the outcome of the election, the next president will face serious foreign policy challenges.



On many of the issues that Donald Trump has opposed, public support is actually higher than before he became President in 2016: NATO; the Paris Climate Accord; the Iran nuclear nonproliferation agreement. Relations with China, and with allies, will be key, and it remains to be seen whether COVID-19 will become an even more internationally contentious issue.

But even if Joe Biden wins there are deeper political dynamics that, while exacerbated by Donald Trump, were percolating before him and will remain well after this election. How will these politics continue to affect the role the United States plays globally? And what are the implications for the Indo-Pacific region?

AIIA Victoria welcomes Professor Bruce Jentleson for a timely and thought-provoking discussion.



*Bruce W. Jentleson is William Preston Few Professor of Public Policy and Professor of Political Science at Duke University. In 2020 he was the Des Ball Chair, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australia National University. He also is a Global Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. He has served in a number of U.S. foreign policy positions, most recently as Senior Advisor to the State Department Policy Planning Director (2009-11) and chair of a Hillary Clinton 2016 foreign policy working group. In 2015-16 he was the Henry A. Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations at the John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress. He received the 2018 American Political Science Association (APSA) International Security Section Joseph J. Kruzel Award for Distinguished Public Service and the 2020 Duke Alumni Association Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award. He is Co-Director of the Bridging the Gap project promoting greater policy relevance among academics. He holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University. His most recent book is The Peacemakers: Leadership Lessons from 20th Century Statesmanship (W.W. Norton, 2018). His current book is Economic Sanctions: What Everyone Needs to Know (Oxford University Press, 2021).*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Thursday 5 November at 10.30am, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 12.30pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# Revolutions and World Order

Professor George Lawson, Australian National University

Tuesday 17 November 2020: 5.30pm-6.30pm AEDT

Webinar

Revolutions provide a range of challenges to world order, from disrupting alliances and trading relationships, to questioning the institutional architecture of world politics.

But not all revolutions challenge world order in the same way, or to the same degree.

In the contemporary world, there are three main forms of revolution, each of which poses a distinct set of challenges.



First are 'people power revolutions', such as Belarus and Hong Kong, which largely support liberal institutions and practices. Second are 'negotiated revolutions', like Sudan, which threaten regional instability, but whose impact is largely contained within existing ecologies. Finally, there are strains of 'social revolution', from militant Salafism to radical populism, which promise a profound shake-up of existing borders, practices and institutions.

What is the current impact of each of these variants, and how are they likely to develop? What insights can be drawn about the general relationship between revolutions and world order?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Professor George Lawson to discuss the shape and role of revolutions in the contemporary world.



*George Lawson is Professor of International Relations at ANU. He works primarily on revolutions, a subject on which he has published two books: [Anatomies of Revolution](#) (2019) and [Negotiated Revolutions: The Czech Republic, South Africa and Chile](#) (2005). Lawson also works on the relationship between history and international relations, most notably in [The Global Transformation](#) (co-authored with Barry Buzan), a book that charts the ways in which a range of important dynamics in contemporary international relations have their roots in the 19th century 'global transformation'. He is the Lead Editor of the Cambridge University book series, [LSE International Studies](#), and a former Co-Editor of the Review of International Studies. His work has won the*

*Francesco Guicciardini Prize and the Joseph Fletcher Prize, both from the International Studies Association, and the Hedley Bull Prize from the European Consortium of Political Research. Prior to ANU, he was an Associate Professor in the Department of International Relations at LSE, a Lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London, and a Researcher at the British based think-tank, Demos.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Tuesday 17 November at 2pm, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5.30pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# What's Next? Australia's International Challenges

Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA FAIIA  
in conversation with The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP

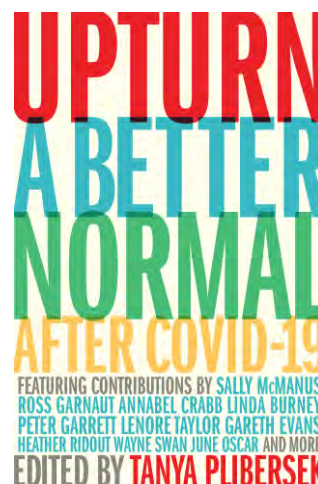
Wednesday 25 November 2020: 6pm-7pm AEDT

Webinar

COVID-19 has resulted in challenges and changes none of us could have imagined, but what happens next? As we begin to rebuild, what type of society, economy and international environment are we bequeathing to future generations?

In *Upturn* (NewSouth Books, November 2020) Tanya Plibersek brings together some of the country's most interesting thinkers who are ready to imagine a better Australia, and a better world, and to fight for it.

In his contribution, Gareth Evans asks how Australia should position itself in the conduct of its international relations – after COVID, and after the US election – **in a world where China's rise** is an inescapable reality, and multilateral institutions have rarely seemed more fragile. He argues for a policy response built on four pillars: Less America; More Self Reliance; More Asia; and More Global Engagement.



AIIA Victoria **invites you to join Tanya Plibersek and Gareth Evans for a lively discussion of Australia's international challenges and opportunities in a post-COVID world.**



*The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP is the Shadow Minister for Education and Training and has been the Federal Member for Sydney since 1998. During the 45th Parliament, Tanya held the position of Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party. Tanya was previously the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development in the 44th Parliament. In government, Tanya was Minister for Health. Her other ministerial appointments have included Minister for Medical Research, Minister for Social Inclusion, Minister for Human Services, Minister for the Status of Women, and Minister for Housing.*

*Tanya holds a BA Communications (Hons) from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and a Master of Politics and Public Policy from Macquarie University. Before entering parliament, Tanya worked in the Domestic Violence Unit at the NSW Ministry for the Status and Advancement of Women.*



*Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA FAIIA is Distinguished Honorary Professor at the Australian National University, where he was Chancellor from 2010-19. He was a Cabinet Minister in the Hawke and Keating Labor Governments from 1983-96, in the posts of Attorney General, Minister for Resources and Energy, Minister for Transport and Communications and - from 1988-96 - Foreign Minister. During his 21 years in Australian politics he was Leader of the Government in the Senate (1993-96) and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives (1996-98). From 2000 to 2009 he was President and CEO of the Brussels-based International Crisis*

*Group, the independent global conflict prevention and resolution organisation. He has written or edited 13 books, most recently [Incorrigible Optimist: A Political Memoir](#) (Melbourne University Press, 2017).*

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 25 November at 3pm, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 6pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

## Whither the UK?

The Hon George Brandis QC, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom  
in conversation with Richard Iron CMG OBE

Thursday 26 November 2020: 5pm-6pm AEDT

Webinar

The historically strong relationship between the UK and Australia is facing a challenging period of change. With the current impact of the COVID crisis and the deadline fast approaching for a Brexit deal, UK-Australian relations are entering a new chapter defined by great global instability.

Yet, the UK's new status as an independent free trading nation post-Brexit has opened opportunities for Australia to boost its economic relationship with the UK. With negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement underway, much of the focus of UK and Australian officials is now on strengthening this trade relationship.



What will an Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement look like? How are the two nations meeting the challenge of COVID? How will post-Brexit Britain position itself in a rapidly changing international environment and how will this affect the bilateral relationship?

In the next of his acclaimed *In Conversation* series, Richard Iron talks to The Hon George Brandis QC about Britain post-Brexit and the future opportunities in Australia's relationship with the UK.



*The Hon George Brandis QC is the High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, having been in the role since 2018. He has had a distinguished career in law and politics in Australia. A barrister by profession, he served as a Senator in the Australian Parliament for 18 years. He was a Minister in the Governments of John Howard, Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull. His ministerial appointments included Minister for the Arts, Attorney-General, Vice-President of the Executive Council and Leader of the Government in the Senate. As Attorney-General, he was responsible for the reform of Australia's espionage and foreign interference laws, and played a leading role in the introduction of marriage equality in Australia in 2017.*

*Richard Iron CMG OBE is President of AIIA Victoria. He previously served in the British Army in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Oman, the Balkans, Sierra Leone and Iraq. He was a visiting fellow at the Changing Character of War programme at the University of Oxford and was lead editor of British Generals in Blair's Wars.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Thursday 26 November at 2pm after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# China's Grand Strategy and Australia's Future in the New Global Order

Geoff Raby AO in conversation with Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA

Wednesday 2 December 2020: 5.30pm-6.30pm AEDT

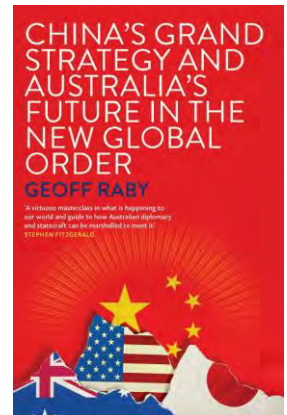
Webinar

Disruption has blown the old world apart. The rise of China, the Trump administration's America First policies, division within Europe and successful defiance by authoritarian states are affecting the shape of the emerging new order.

Human rights, rule of law, free media and longstanding global institutions all seem set to be weakened. Autocracies are exercising greater control over world affairs.

Australia will need to engage heightened levels of diplomacy to forge relations with countries of opposing principles. It will need to be agile in pursuing a realistic foreign policy agenda.

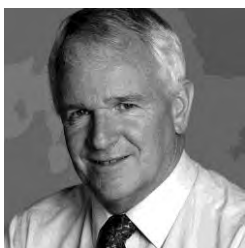
How should Australia approach its relationship with China? What is the impact of **China's** rise on the global and regional order?



Rowan Callick talks to former Ambassador to China, Geoff Raby, about his new book, [\*China's Grand Strategy and Australia's Future in the New Global Order\*](#) (Melbourne University Press, November 2020).



*Geoff Raby AO was Australia's Ambassador to China (2007–11); Ambassador to APEC (2003–5); and Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (1998–2001). He is chairman of VisAsia at the Art Gallery of NSW and chairman of the Australia–China Institute of Arts and Culture at the University of Western Australia. Geoff Raby was awarded the Order of Australia in 2019 for services to Australia–China relations and to international trade.*



*Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA is an Industry Fellow at Griffith University's Asia Institute. He was Beijing-based China Correspondent of The Australian for two terms, following 20 years with The Australian Financial Review including as China Correspondent based in Hong Kong. He was also Asia-Pacific Editor for both newspapers. He has won a Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year and two Walkley Awards. He has written three books published in both English and Chinese - Comrades & Capitalists: Hong Kong Since the Handover; Channar: A landmark venture in iron ore; and Party Time: Who Runs China and How. He is a member of the Advisory Boards of the National Foundation for Australia China Relations, La Trobe University's Asia Institute and China Studies Department, and the University of Technology Sydney's Australia China Relations Institute.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 2 December at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5.30pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# The Psychological Cost of War

Professor Sir Simon Wessely in conversation with Richard Iron CMG OBE

Tuesday 8 December 2020: 7pm-8pm AEDT

Webinar

War has a profound impact on a person, injuring more than just the body. Whilst war creates mental suffering, it is ultimately unclear how deep these mental wounds are.

From World War I and II, to Vietnam, and to the Gulf War, the concept and definition of war has changed over time. Each war has resulted in differing psychological casualties and new definitions for previously misunderstood phenomena.



Yet while we have made significant strides in recognising not just the physical but also the mental cost of conflict, controversy continues to rage over how to define and classify the mental suffering caused by war.

Further, the advancement of new types of warfare, such as asymmetric and drone warfare, brings changes not only to how people fight but also how they process and cope with war in the aftermath.

How have the psychological impacts of war changed over time? What are the psychological consequences of war and trauma? How differently does war affect combatants and civilians?

In the next of his acclaimed *In Conversation* series, Richard Iron talks to Professor Sir Simon Wessely about the psychological cost of war to both combatants and civilians.



*Professor Sir Simon Wessely is Professor of Psychological Medicine and Regius Professor of Psychiatry at King's College London and a Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist at King's College and the Maudsley Hospitals. Simon Wessely studied medicine and history of art at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and finished his medical training at University College Oxford, graduating in 1981. He obtained his medical membership in Newcastle, before moving to London to train in psychiatry at the Maudsley. He has a Master's and Doctorate in epidemiology. He is a Foundation Senior Investigator of the National Institute for Health Research, past President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal Society of Medicine and is also chairing the Independent Review into the Mental Health Act. In 2020 he was appointed to the Council of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). He has over 800 original publications, with an emphasis on the*

*boundaries of medicine and psychiatry, unexplained symptoms and syndromes, population reactions to adversity, military health, epidemiology and others. He founded the King's Centre for Military Health Research, which is now the main source of information on the health and well-being of the UK Armed Forces past and present and has been Civilian Consultant Advisor in Psychiatry to the British Army since 2001. He has co-authored books on chronic fatigue syndrome, randomised controlled trials and a history of military psychiatry, and is a trustee of Combat Stress.*

*Richard Iron CMG OBE is President of AIIA Victoria. He previously served in the British Army in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Oman, the Balkans, Sierra Leone and Iraq. He was a visiting fellow at the Changing Character of War programme at the University of Oxford and was lead editor of British Generals in Blair's Wars.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Tuesday 8 December at 3pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 7pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# America after Trump

Professor Bruce W. Jentleson, Duke University

Wednesday 27 January 2021: 12pm-1pm AEDT Webinar

**After Joe Biden's Inauguration on 20 January, the new president** will face a world that has tremendous reservations about whether the country that has held the mantle of world leadership since World War II should continue to do so. The 6 January insurrection and invasion of the US Capitol added further to concerns about the state of America.



While US allies in NATO and in Asia will be relieved that a committed internationalist will once again lead the United States, the view that global leadership is not an American entitlement has been profoundly reinforced by the recent scenes on Capitol Hill.

The legacy of the Trump administration is a more isolationist US that has turned away from some of the international institutions it helped create. Joe Biden has promised a shift in US foreign policy priorities with a renewed focus on strengthening multilateral organisations and agreements.

How easily will this be achieved given the rhetoric and actions of the Trump administration over the last **four years? To what extent will Biden's foreign policy agenda depend on his administration's ability to** show US allies and others that it can deliver the domestic support necessary for a robust internationalism? What issues are likely to be at the top of the agenda for the president and for Congress, and how will the decisions they make affect the Indo-Pacific region? And will the deep divisions and turmoil within American politics persist or begin to heal?

AIIA Victoria welcomes back Professor Bruce Jentleson for a timely and thought-provoking discussion.



*Bruce W. Jentleson is William Preston Few Professor of Public Policy and Professor of Political Science at Duke University. In 2020 he was the Des Ball Chair, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australia National University. He also is a Global Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. He has served in a number of U.S. foreign policy positions, most recently as Senior Advisor to the State Department Policy Planning Director (2009-11) and chair of a Hillary Clinton 2016 foreign policy working group. In 2015-16 he was the Henry A. Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations at the John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress. He received the 2018 American Political Science Association (APSA) International Security Section Joseph J. Kruzel Award for Distinguished Public Service and the 2020 Duke Alumni Association Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award. He is Co-Director of the Bridging the Gap project promoting greater policy relevance among academics. He holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University. His most recent book is The Peacemakers: Leadership Lessons from 20th Century Statesmanship (W.W. Norton, 2018). His current book is Economic Sanctions: What Everyone Needs to Know (Oxford University Press, 2021).*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 27 January at 10am, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 12pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# The Ox Year in the China Shop – Winning at Home and Abroad, and Embracing Global Elites

Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA

Thursday 4 February 2021: 5.40pm for 6pm-7pm Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

The **People's Republic of China (PRC)** came under heavy fire in the first half of 2020. It suffered pushbacks at home for prioritising surveillance and control over timely release of information about COVID-19, and abroad for the ruthlessness of its thrust for regional dominance and global influence, as well as for allegedly letting the pandemic escape.



But it has surfed that wave of disapproval and has resumed its course to achieve key communist party goals by retaining the backing of the elites that count, both within China and overseas.

At home, re-badging himself the **People's Leader**, President Xi Jinping reasserted his absolute authority by demonstrating to the crucial party elite that his adroit new narrative has won back **convincingly the support of China's** populace.

Overseas, despite suffering strong criticism from Asian and Western governments that have moved to quarantine key areas from PRC influence, the party-state seems to have retained its extraordinary influence with key elites, especially in corporations, academia, and regional and local governmental **levels, as well as with Belt and Road Initiative partners around the world that are recipients of Beijing's** economic largesse.

How is the PRC convincing its high-value elite partners that **China's interests are also genuinely** in the best interests of their own country or organisation? What developments may the Year of the Ox bring?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Rowan Callick for his insights.



*Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA is an Industry Fellow at Griffith University's Asia Institute. He was Beijing-based China Correspondent of The Australian for two terms, following 20 years with The Australian Financial Review including as China Correspondent based in Hong Kong. He was also Asia-Pacific Editor for both newspapers. He has won a Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year and two Walkley Awards. He has written three books published in both English and Chinese - Comrades & Capitalists: Hong Kong Since the Handover; Channar: A landmark venture in iron ore; and Party Time: Who Runs*

*China and How. He is a member of the Advisory Boards of the National Foundation for Australia China Relations, La Trobe University's Asia Institute and China Studies Department, and the University of Technology Sydney's Australia China Relations Institute.*

This event is open to members to attend (subject to COVIDSafe requirements) and it will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Thursday 4 February at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The event will commence at 6pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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In-person: Premium and Student members free; Regular members \$10. Webinar: Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10

# Myanmar: Update on Developments

Christopher Lamb, former Ambassador to Myanmar/Burma

Monday 15 February 2021: 5.40pm for 6pm-7pm AEDT Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

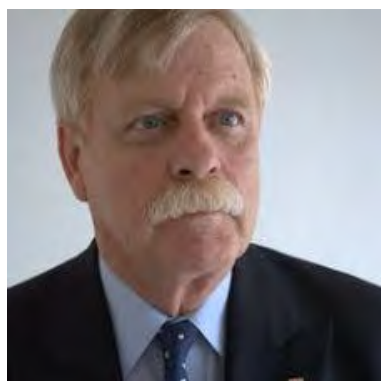
**On 1 February Myanmar's army** detained leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and others in response to "election fraud", handed power to military chief Min Aung Hlaing and imposed a state of emergency.

Amid widespread condemnation, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has pledged to mobilise enough international pressure on Myanmar's military "to make sure that this coup fails".



**What does the military takeover mean for Myanmar's transition to democracy? What will be the impact on the already-persecuted Rohingya population?**

AIIA Victoria and AIIA for WA Inc. in conjunction with the [Australia Myanmar Institute](#) invite you to join former Ambassador Christopher Lamb for his insights into this dynamic and evolving situation.



*Christopher Lamb is the President of the Australia Myanmar Institute. He is a retired Australian diplomat, having worked for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1968-2000. In that time, he served as Ambassador to Myanmar (Burma) from 1986-89 and to Yugoslavia, Romania and Macedonia from 1997-2000, and served in the Burma Embassy from 1972-74. He worked as chief diplomat with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Geneva (2000-2010) where **he helped develop IFRC's policy on Humanitarian Diplomacy**. He is now an adviser to IFRC and to the Australian Red Cross as well as several other National Societies (including the Myanmar Red Cross), concentrating on the resolution of political questions and the skills required for humanitarian diplomacy. He is an associate professor in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. He led the AIIA Victoria study tour to Myanmar in 2013.*

This event is open to VIC members to attend (subject to COVIDSafe requirements) and it will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Monday 15 February at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The event will commence at 6pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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## *Meet the Ambassador* – New Zealand

HE the Hon Dame Annette King, New Zealand High Commissioner

Tuesday 16 February 2021: 5.30pm-6.30pm AEDT

Webinar

AIIA Victoria is delighted to present a new webinar series *Meet the Ambassador*, where former ABC foreign correspondent Jim Middleton will discuss current world, regional and national issues with Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Australia.



In the first of the series, we invite you to join HE the Hon Dame Annette King, New Zealand High Commissioner to Australia.

Australia and New Zealand are natural allies with a strong trans-Tasman sense of family. Migration, trade and defence ties, keen competition on the sporting field, and strong people-to-people links have helped shape a close and co-operative relationship. The Closer Economic Relations trade agreement we have with New Zealand is arguably the most comprehensive economic relationship of any group of countries globally but is there more we could be doing?

What are the key challenges and opportunities for the two nations? How should we deal with the geostrategic, economic and people-to-people issues facing the Indo-Pacific region?



*HE the Hon Dame Annette King commenced duties as the New Zealand High Commissioner to Australia in December 2018. Prior to taking up this position she served as Deputy Leader of the New Zealand Labour Party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition from 2008 to 2011 and from 2014 until 2017. She was a Senior Cabinet Minister in the Fifth Labour Government of New Zealand and was the MP for the Rongotai electorate in Wellington from 1996 to 2017. Her portfolios included Health, Police, Transport and Justice.*



*In a 50-year journalistic career as a political reporter Jim Middleton has reported extensively from all countries in Southeast and North Asia (apart from North Korea) as well as India and Pakistan. From 1980-86 he was the ABC's North America correspondent in New York and Washington; from 1988-2007 he was the ABC's Chief Political Correspondent and later Political Editor in Canberra. From 2008-2014 he was Chief Anchor for the Australia Network (the ABC's overseas network), and then for Sky News Australia. He was a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne from 2015-2017.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Tuesday 16 February at 2pm, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5.30pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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# Biden's America and Great Power Conflict

David Kilcullen in conversation with Richard Iron CMG OBE

Wednesday 17 February 2021: 6pm-7pm AEDT

Webinar

In [\*The Dragons and The Snakes: How the Rest Learned to Fight the West\*](#), the eminent soldier-scholar David Kilcullen offers a wide-ranging analysis of the global security environment since 1993 and asks what opponents of the West have learned during the last quarter-century of conflict. The *Dragons* he refers to are nation-states such as China and Russia; the *Snakes* are guerrilla and terrorist organisations.



Western dominance over a very particular, narrowly-defined form of warfare since the Cold War has forced adversaries to adapt in ways that present serious new challenges to America and its allies, and state and non-state threats now increasingly overlap and intersect.

For President Joe Biden, the post-Trump era is fraught with challenges, ranging from increasing great power rivalry, economic uncertainty, insecure allies and domestic challenges – nowhere is this more **evident than in Australia's own region**. While the nation's geographic isolation has provided Australia with a degree of protection from the major conflagrations of the 20th century, the 21st century's great power rivalry impacts closer to home.

We are consistently told that as a nation we are torn between our economic relationship with China and the longstanding strategic partnership with the US, placing the country at the epicentre of a great power rivalry – but does it have to be that way?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Richard Iron in conversation with David Kilcullen.



*Dr David Kilcullen is Professor of International and Political Studies at University of New South Wales, Canberra and also serves as Professor of Practice in Global Security at Arizona State University. Kilcullen is a former soldier and diplomat, and a scholar of guerrilla warfare, terrorism, urbanisation and the future of conflict, who served 25 years for the Australian and United States governments. During the Iraq War, he served in Baghdad as a member of the Joint Strategic Assessment Team, then as Senior Counterinsurgency Advisor, Multi-National Force Iraq in 2007, before becoming Special Advisor for Counterinsurgency to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in 2008. Kilcullen was named one of the Foreign Policy Top 100 Global Thinkers in 2009. His previous acclaimed books are The Accidental Guerrilla; Counterinsurgency; Out of the Mountains; and Blood Year: Islamic State and the Failures of the War on Terror.*

*Richard Iron CMG OBE is President of AIIA Victoria. He previously served in the British Army in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Oman, the Balkans, Sierra Leone and Iraq. He was a visiting fellow at the Changing Character of War programme at the University of Oxford and was lead editor of British Generals in Blair's Wars.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 17 February at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 6pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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## Sports Diplomacy – Taking Australia’s Game to the World

Andrew Hunter, former General Manager (China Engagement), Port Adelaide Football Club

Thursday 25 February 2021: 6pm-7pm AEDT

Webinar

There are many examples of sport being used for breakthrough diplomacy: Barack Obama’s use of baseball in the normalisation of relations between USA and Cuba; ice hockey between the USSR and Canada in 1972, and ping pong diplomacy in 1971, the latter even involving Australia.

The Australian Ping Pong team were invited to China while competing at the World Championships in Nagoya in early 1971. They eventually accepted the invitation and played exhibition games in Guangzhou and Shanghai before being received in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing in March 1971, encouraging Gough Whitlam to visit Beijing as leader of the opposition later that year.



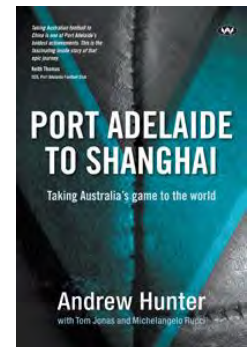
Fast forward to 2019, and the *Festival of Australia* ran across 10 Chinese cities, a two-week program of business networking, consumer activities and online promotions, culminating in the Australian Rules AFL match between Port Adelaide and St Kilda in Shanghai on 2 June 2019. A classic example of sports diplomacy building goodwill between people.

COVID of course has brought such aspirations to a halt for the time being, but 2022 brings an opportunity to re-engage. The Winter Olympics will be held in Beijing in February. It also presents an opportunity to re-establish the *Festival of Australia*, and the AFL game as part of it. Will we use sport to engage, or exclude?

Following the recent release of [\*Port Adelaide to Shanghai: Taking Australia’s game to the World\*](#) (Wakefield Press, 2020), AIIA Victoria invites you to join Andrew Hunter to discuss the role of sports diplomacy in the Australia-China bilateral relationship, and more widely how sport could be deployed in an omnidirectional foreign policy for Australia.



*Andrew Hunter worked as General Manager (China Engagement) at Port Adelaide Football Club between 2015 and 2020. He holds a Master of Philosophy (Asian Studies) from The University of Adelaide. A professional athlete and national team representative in indoor volleyball, he has written over 100 opinion pieces for the Adelaide Review, InDaily, Adelaide Advertiser, Canberra Times and the Australian.*



Please note that due to COVID restrictions on interstate travel, this event will now be webinar only. Registrations close on Thursday 25 February at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The event will commence at 6pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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## Greetings from Trumpland

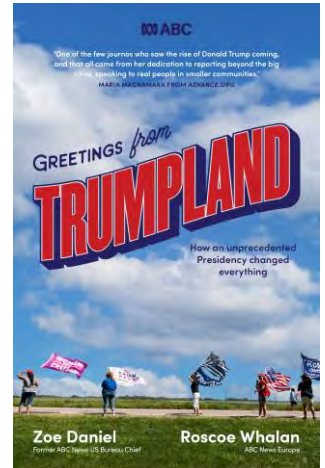
Zoe Daniel, former ABC US Bureau Chief

Thursday 4 March 2021: 5.30pm for 6-7pm AEDT Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

As we enter a post-Trump era, facts are a matter of opinion, the boundaries of civility have shifted, and populism has re-emerged as a powerful tool for political leaders the world over.

In a masterclass on using anger and fear for political gain, Donald Trump harnessed the power of social media to develop blind devotion among his supporters. Now, in the wake of his election loss to Joe Biden and the violent unrest since, we enter 2021 amid a global health pandemic and an epidemic of information manipulation and social and political division.

Journalists Zoe Daniel and Roscoe Whalan had front-row seats to the unlikely rise of Donald Trump from joke candidate to president - following his movement from the very beginning. Their new book [\*Greetings from Trumpland\*](#) (HarperCollins February 2021) provides an inside look at the historic one-term presidency that changed the world and an insightful examination into how America, and the world, can move forward under President Joe Biden.



AIIA Victoria invites you to join Zoe Daniel in conversation with former foreign correspondent Jim Middleton. Copies of the book will be available for signing and purchase.



*Zoe Daniel is a three-time foreign correspondent and former ABC News United States Bureau Chief. She was based in Washington DC from late 2015 until the end of 2019. Zoe was the ABC's Southeast Asia correspondent from 2009 to 2013. Between 2005 and 2006, Zoe was the ABC's Africa correspondent. Zoe has written two other books including her 2014 memoir, Storyteller.*



*In a 50-year journalistic career as a political reporter Jim Middleton has reported extensively from all countries in Southeast and North Asia (apart from North Korea) as well as India and Pakistan. From 1980-86 he was the ABC's North America correspondent in New York and Washington; from 1988-2007 he was the ABC's Chief Political Correspondent and later Political Editor in Canberra. From 2008-2014 he was Chief Anchor for the Australia Network (the ABC's overseas network), and then for Sky News Australia. He was a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne from 2015-2017.*

This event is open to AIIA Victoria members to attend and it will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Thursday 4 March at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The event will commence at 6pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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Registered Office: Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002  
Telephone (03) 9654 7271 Email: [events.vic@internationalaffairs.org.au](mailto:events.vic@internationalaffairs.org.au)  
Website: [www.internationalaffairs.org.au/victoria](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/victoria)



## *Meet the Ambassador* – United Kingdom

HE Vicki Treadell CMG MVO, British High Commissioner to Australia

Tuesday 16 March 2021: 5.30pm-6.30pm AEDT **Webinar**

Australia shares a deep and historical relationship with the United Kingdom. The alliance is marked by close cultural and personal ties as well as shared interests in economic liberalisation and respective national security.

The two countries rarely have bilateral disputes, yet in a period of great global instability, the relationship and the values it is built on should not be taken for granted.

Since Brexit and its exodus from the European Union, the UK is looking to develop new relationships to secure further free trade opportunities, including applying for formal membership of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

How will post-Brexit Britain position itself in a rapidly changing international environment and how will this affect the bilateral relationship? How can the UK and Australia work together in the Indo-Pacific region?

In the second instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series, AIIA Victoria invites you to join Her Excellency Vicki Treadell in conversation with former foreign correspondent Jim Middleton.



*Her Excellency Vicki Treadell CMG, MVO took up her appointment as British High Commissioner to Australia on 13 March 2019. Mrs Treadell has held senior roles in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office since she began her Foreign Service career in 1979. Most recently, Mrs Treadell served as the British High Commissioner to Malaysia (2014 to 2019) and New Zealand (2010 to 2014) and Deputy High Commissioner to India (2006 to 2010). Additionally, she was Director of UK Trade and Investment for the North West of England from 2002 to 2005 where she was responsible for driving trade and investment as a key pillar of regional and economic development.*



*In a 50-year journalistic career as a political reporter Jim Middleton has reported extensively from all countries in Southeast and North Asia (apart from North Korea) as well as India and Pakistan. From 1980-86 he was the ABC's North America correspondent in New York and Washington; from 1988-2007 he was the ABC's Chief Political Correspondent and later Political Editor in Canberra. From 2008-2014 he was Chief Anchor for the Australia Network (the ABC's overseas network), and then for Sky News Australia. He was a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne from 2015-2017.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Tuesday 16 March at 2pm, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5.30pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# Security through Sustainable Peace

Professor John Langmore AM and Dr Tania Miletic

Tuesday 23 March 2021: 5.40pm for 6pm-7pm AEDT Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Achieving peace and avoiding the scourge of war is one of the most challenging issues our world faces. Conflict resolution is made more difficult by increasingly complex and turbulent geopolitical systems.

It is clear that challenges within the global system would benefit from the achievement of relative peace through traditional diplomacy, yet there is still a heavy focus on military and security spending.



DFAT and the University of Melbourne have collaborated to review **Australia's peace processes and experience with conflict**. A recent report [\*Security Through Sustainable Peace: Australian International Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding\*](#) considers how Australia can contribute to international efforts towards conflict prevention, peacekeeping and to longer-term peace building approaches.

How can Australia enhance its role in supporting peace and security? What is **DFAT's role in strengthening diplomacy and improving Australia's peace-building efforts**?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Professor John Langmore and Dr Tania Miletic to discuss their **report's findings and policy recommendations**.



*Professor John Langmore AM is a Professorial Fellow in Political Science at the University of Melbourne. He was Director of the UN Division for Social Policy and Development in New York for five years from 1997 and then Representative of the International Labour Organization to the United Nations for two. When appointed, he was the most senior Australian working in the UN Secretariat. He has written or jointly edited six books; the most recent being a report for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade entitled Security Through Sustainable Peace: Australian International Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding.*



*Dr Tania Miletic is the Assistant Director of the newly established Centre for Peacebuilding at the University of Melbourne. She was a Senior Research Fellow with the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne and part of the Australian International Conflict Resolution Project. For the past 20 years she has been engaged in policy-oriented research, peace-building practice, teaching postgraduate courses in peace and conflict studies and supporting actors engaged in peace processes in the Asia-Pacific region.*

This event is open to AIIA VIC members to attend and it will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Tuesday 23 March at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 6pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC +11).

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## Biden's World

Emma Sky OBE In Conversation with Richard Iron CMG OBE

Wednesday 24 March 2021: 12pm – 1pm AEDT

Webinar

Nearing the halfway point of his first 100 days in office, the US under President Joe Biden is undergoing fundamental changes. Numerous executive orders have been signed to rewrite the history of Donald Trump's years in office.

The US has rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, the World Health Organization and has pledged to rebuild the democratic foundations the country prides itself on. Yet, within the USA, divisions seem to be even more entrenched with little sign of so far of reconciliation to repair a fractured nation.



As Biden surrounds himself with a more diverse and youthful team of advisers, many are watching America's evolving relationship with an assertive China, as well as key political developments within an increasingly fractured European Union and bitter conflict in the Middle East.

With the best part of four years to go, what does Biden's America look like and more importantly, what does Biden's World look like? How will the current administration heal the deep wounds of civil unrest within its borders? What exactly does Biden mean by 'The US is back'?

AIIA Victoria invites you to a unique opportunity to hear from Emma Sky in conversation with Richard Iron.



*Emma Sky OBE is director of Yale's Maurice R. Greenberg World Fellows Program and a Senior Fellow at the Jackson Institute, where she teaches Middle East politics. Emma Sky served as advisor to the Commanding General of US Forces in Iraq from 2007-2010; as advisor to the Commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan in 2006; as advisor to the US Security Co-ordinator for the Middle East Peace Process in 2005; and as Governorate Co-ordinator of Kirkuk for the Coalition Provisional Authority, 2003-2004. She has published The Unravelling: High Hopes and Missed Opportunities in Iraq (2015) and In a Time of Monsters: Travelling in a Middle East in Revolt (2019)*



*Richard Iron CMG OBE is President of AIIA Victoria. He previously served in the British Army in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Oman, the Balkans, Sierra Leone and Iraq. He was a visiting fellow at the Changing Character of War programme at the University of Oxford and was lead editor of British Generals in Blair's Wars.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 24 March at 10am, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 12pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# After Brexit: The Consequences

Dr. Rémy Davison, Monash University

Monday 29 March 2021: 5.30pm for 6-7pm AEDT

Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

The United Kingdom left the European Union in 2020. London and Brussels signed the bilateral Trade and Cooperation Agreement in December 2020, which established a preferential trade agreement in the areas of goods, services, digital trade, intellectual property, public procurement, aviation and road transport, energy, fisheries, social security coordination, law enforcement and judicial cooperation on crime.



However, there are major differences between the **Agreement and the UK's former membership of the EU Single Market**. Fifty per cent of Britain's exports are in services, comprising principally banking and financial services. Under the rubric of 'Global Britain', the UK has been compelled to re-negotiate bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) with markets to which it had prior access as a member of the Single Market, including Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. It is negotiating a FTA with Australia; it is also seeking FTAs with the United States, New Zealand and membership of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Recently, UK Conservative parliamentarians have floated the concept of a 'CANZUK' (Canada-Australia-New Zealand-UK) group that would establish freedom of movement, free trade agreements, together with military and diplomatic cooperation.

What are the implications of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement as the UK exits the six-month transitional arrangements on financial services in mid-2021? What are the implications for Australia as Britain negotiates new trade agreements?

AIIA Victoria in conjunction with AIIA Tasmania invite you to join Rémy Davison to discuss the economic impact of Brexit upon the UK.



*Dr. Rémy Davison is Jean Monnet Chair in Politics & Economics at Monash University. He was appointed a Global Expert by the United Nations in 2010. He is currently Chief Investigator, Jean Monnet-PROCAM (2020–22), and Chief Investigator, Building a Secure and Prosperous Asia (DFAT, 2020–22). He is the author of The Political Economy of Single Market Europe; Foreign Policies of the Great and Emerging Powers; and the co-author of The New Global Politics of the Asia-Pacific: Conflict and Cooperation in the Asian Century.*

This event is open to AIIA members to attend and it will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Monday March 29 at 2pm after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 6pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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## *Meet the Ambassador Series* – Brazil

HE Dr Sergio Eduardo Moreira Lima, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Tuesday 6 April 2021: 5.45pm-6.45pm AEST **Webinar**

2020 marked 75 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Brazil, but the trade relationship stretches back to 1787! The relationship is built not just on rum as it once was but on a broad range of common interests spanning education, agriculture, strong two-way investment, security and the promotion of liberal democratic values.



A visit from former Prime Minister Julia Gillard in 2012 led to the signing of a formal Strategic Partnership and subsequent **MOU's across education, science & innovation**, the environment and immigration.

Despite the strong relationship, the impact of COVID-19 has asked tough questions of the countries both economically and politically. As the two largest countries and economies south of the equator with shared interests, can we be doing more? How do the two countries handle a competitive commodity market? What are the prospects?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join HE Dr Sergio Eduardo Moreira Lima and Jim Middleton for the next instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series.



*His Excellency Dr Sergio Eduardo Moreira Lima, a career diplomat, post-graduated from the Rio Branco Institute – the Brazilian Diplomatic Academy. He has a degree in Law from the Rio de Janeiro State University (UERJ) and is a licensed member of the Order of Attorneys of Brazil. He is also a Master of Law from the UIO (University of Oslo). He served at the Brazilian Mission to the United Nations in New York, and the Embassies in Washington, Lisbon and London. He was Ambassador in Tel Aviv, Oslo and Budapest. He held positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Brasilia, including that of Secretary for Internal Control, Director of the Institute of Research on International Relations (IPRI) and President of the Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation (FUNAG), until being designated Ambassador to Australia.*



*In a 50-year journalistic career as a political reporter Jim Middleton has reported extensively from all countries in Southeast and North Asia (apart from North Korea) as well as India and Pakistan. From 1980-86 he was the ABC's North America correspondent in New York and Washington; from 1988-2007 he was the ABC's Chief Political Correspondent and later Political Editor in Canberra. From 2008-2014 he was Chief Anchor for the Australia Network (the ABC's overseas network), and then for Sky News Australia. He was a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne from 2015-2017.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Tuesday 6 April at 2pm, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5.45pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

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# The Chinese Communist Party's Ideological Core

Prof. John Fitzgerald, Prof. Sue Trevaskes and Chris Buckley with Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA

Tuesday 13 April 2021: 5pm for 5:30pm-7pm AEST Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

As one of the two great global powers today, China is an ever-present topic of political analysis and investigation. Many Western experts had theorised that the nation of 1.4 billion people would one day undergo liberal democratic reforms amidst rampant economic growth in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is now widely seen as a fundamental misunderstanding of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).



The ideology of the CCP is central to how the party governs domestically and achieves strategic interests abroad.

**Understanding the party's** guiding ideology is critical to understanding the party and the likely future direction of the country. While its history is rooted in Marxist-Leninist principles adapted by Maoism, the **party's** ideological impetus is evolving as China finds its place atop of a new global order. After consolidating power for the foreseeable future, General Secretary Xi Jinping has ushered in Socialism with Chinese characteristics for a New Era – which comprises “Xi Jinping Thought”.

So what are the dominant ideas of Xi Jinping Thought? How has CCP ideology changed since 1949? What are some of the misconceptions about the Chinese political system, and how can Australia adjust its policy **towards China by better understanding the CCP's ideological core?**

AIIA Victoria invites you to join a panel discussion with Professor John Fitzgerald, Professor Sue Trevaskes and Chris Buckley moderated by Rowan Callick.

*Professor John Fitzgerald is Emeritus Professor in the Centre for Social Impact at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne. Before that he served five years as China Representative of The Ford Foundation in Beijing and before that again as Director of the International Centre of Excellence in Asia-Pacific Studies at the Australian National University. His latest work is Cadre Nation: Territorial Government and the Lessons of Imperial Statecraft in Xi Jinping's China, published in October 2020 in [The China Journal](#).*

*Professor Sue Trevaskes is Deputy Head of School (Research) in the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science at Griffith University, and Deputy Director of the Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research. She was Adjunct Director of the China in the World at ANU and member of the CIW management committee from 2010-2018. Her latest work [Law and the Party in China: Ideology and Organisation](#) (Cambridge University Press) was published in January 2021.*

*Chris Buckley is chief China correspondent of The New York Times and lived in China for most of the past 30 years after growing up in Sydney. He obtained a PhD in China studies from the ANU. Before joining the NY Times in 2012, he was a correspondent in Beijing for Reuters. **A major scoop was last year's publication in the NY Times of the Xinjiang Papers, 403 pages of internal Chinese state documents about the campaign of repression in Xinjiang.***

*Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA is an Industry Fellow at Griffith University's Asia Institute. He was Beijing-based China Correspondent of The Australian for two terms, following 20 years with The Australian Financial Review including as China Correspondent based in Hong Kong. He was also Asia-Pacific Editor for both newspapers. He has won a Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year and two Walkley Awards.*

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**Australian Institute  
of International Affairs**  
*Victoria*

This event is open to AIIA Victoria members to attend (subject to COVIDSafe requirements) and it will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on 13 April at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The event will commence at 5:30pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

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**Australian Institute  
of International Affairs**  
*Victoria*

## Young Professionals Networking Drinks

Tuesday 20 April: 5.30pm – 7.30pm at The Kelvin Club, 14-30 Melbourne Place, Melbourne 3000



AIIA VIC warmly welcomes you to our first Young Professionals Networking Drinks for 2021.

All welcome!!

All you need is an interest in mingling with extraordinary, like-minded individuals in a relaxed setting.

With the growing importance of collaboration across fields and sectors, we are excited to bring you this event promoting connectedness across all areas of international affairs.

Entry to this event is FREE for all AIIA VIC Members as well as New Colombo Plan Scholars and Alumni. Non-member tickets are available for \$10 per person.

Dress code: Smart Casual

Cash bar, and snacks available for purchase

Come along and join us for after-work drinks and engaging conversations!

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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FREE for all AIIA VIC Members as well as New Colombo Plan Scholars and Alumni. Non-member \$10 per person.

# Expeditionary Diplomats

Paul Richter

Wednesday 21 April 2021: 11:00am-12:00pm AEST

Webinar

The Middle East has long been a complex arena, subject to multiple wars and ongoing political instability.

The United States along with its allies has poured tremendous resources into the region and while many cast their minds to military engagement, much of the heavy lifting is done behind closed doors by seasoned diplomats.

Recently the United States has sought to reduce all-out military engagement in the region, most notably with the withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. This has created debate on the balance of soft and hard power and whether the Middle East is an arena that America can still influence.



In *[The Ambassadors: America's Diplomats on the Front Lines](#)* (Simon & Schuster, 2020), veteran diplomatic correspondent Paul Richter goes behind the battles and the headlines to show how American ambassadors have been the unconventional warriors in the region - running local government, directing drone strikes, building nations, and risking their lives on the front lines. He follows the careers of four extraordinary US diplomats: Ryan Crocker, Robert Ford, Anne Patterson, and J. Christopher Stevens. They served mostly in war-torn states, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria. Both the Bush and the Obama administrations recognised the unique knowledge and abilities of these diplomats, asking them to return again and again to dangerous, chaotic situations.

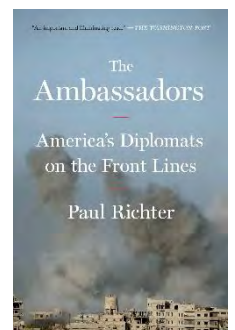
In a changing world and amid geopolitical tensions, how is the work of ambassadors, envoys and diplomats evolving? How can the new Biden Administration revive the American Foreign Service? What are some of the emerging challenges in American diplomacy in a post-COVID era?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Paul Richter for a discussion on American diplomats abroad and the challenges of diplomacy.



*Paul Richter has written about foreign policy and national security for three decades. As a Washington-based correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, he reported from sixty countries and appeared in US and international media. He covered the State Department for the Los Angeles Times from 2001 to 2015, and before that, the Pentagon and the White House. He was raised in the Washington, DC, area and Minneapolis, and graduated from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. He is also the principal author*

*of California and the American Tax Revolt: Prop 13 After Five Years. His latest book is **The Ambassadors: America's Diplomats on the Front Lines** (Simon & Schuster, 2020).*



*This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 21 April at 9am, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 11am AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).*

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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# Exposing Putin's Russia: The Navalny Challenge

Professor William Partlett, Melbourne Law School

Thursday 29 April 2021: 5.40pm for 6pm-7pm AEST Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Thirty years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, Russia still largely remains — in the words of Winston Churchill — "a riddle wrapped in a **mystery inside an enigma.**" This discussion will seek to decode the Russian enigma by **understanding Putin's most prominent opponent: Alexei Navalny.**



Navalny — who is now beginning an almost three-year prison term in Siberia — has built a powerful movement seeking to change Russian governance. Understanding Navalny **and his strategy provides important insight into the nature of one of the world's most poorly understood but influential countries.**

**Vladimir Putin is often viewed as one of the world's fiercest political strongmen.** Is Putin really as strong as he looks or is he a "weak strongman" as many (including Navalny) have argued? What are the fragilities of Russian governance that led to this crisis? How does the opposition movement rebuild momentum under an increasingly repressive political regime? Is Alexei Navalny himself a possible replacement for Putin? And, finally, what does this challenge **mean for Australia and other countries' relations with Russia?**

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Professor William Partlett to share his insights on the unfolding political saga in Russia and his upcoming book ***Exposing Putin's Russia: The Navalny Challenge.***



*William Partlett is an Associate Professor at Melbourne Law School. He has travelled extensively in Russia and the former Soviet Union. His written work on the region includes publications in both academic journals as well as *The Conversation* and *The National Interest*. His insights draw on both his training in Russian politics, language, and history at Oxford University and Princeton University as well as his legal training at Stanford Law School. He is currently working on a book entitled **Exposing Putin's Russia: The Navalny Challenge** which explores Russia through the lens of **Alexei Navalny's opposition movement.***

This event is open to AIIA Victoria members to attend (subject to COVIDSafe requirements) and it will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Tuesday 29 April at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The event will commence at 6pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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In-person: Premium and Student members free; Regular members \$10. Webinar: Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10

# New Perspectives on Diplomacy

Professor Jack Spence OBE, Dr Claire Yorke and Dr Alastair Masser

Wednesday 5 May 2021 5:30pm – 6.45pm AEST

Webinar

Despite a rapidly changing global landscape, evolutions in technology and communications, and a growing array of state and non-state actors, diplomacy remains a constant and integral part of international relations. The pandemic has further demonstrated the interconnectedness of relations between states and the importance of cooperation, as well as the challenges of nationalism and the precarity of the international system.



Two new co-edited books on [\*New Perspectives on Diplomacy\*](#) and [\*Contemporary Diplomacy in Action\*](#) (Bloomsbury and I.B. Tauris, April 2021) explore both the evolving nature of diplomacy as well as the enduring significance of its central tenets. Covering themes including security, negotiations, climate change, technology, and with a range of international case studies, these volumes offer new insights on the theory and practice of diplomacy.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join co-editors J. E. Spence, Claire Yorke and Alastair Masser for a discussion on how international actors can meet the demands of contemporary challenges, and what the future of diplomacy might hold for scholars and practitioners alike.

*Professor Jack Spence OBE has been one of the leading figures in International Relations for several decades. He has been awarded 3 honorary doctorates and 4 honorary fellowships, one from King's College London. His work has covered theory and practice, with focuses on international politics as a field, diplomacy, nationalism, Africa, war and defence education, and poetry and literature. Born in South Africa, he came to Britain for postgraduate study at the LSE.*

*Dr Claire Yorke is an author and academic researcher. Between 2018-2020 she was a Henry A. Kissinger Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer at International Security Studies and the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University. Her writing and research explores the role and limitations of empathy and emotions in international affairs, diplomacy, strategy, leadership and policy-making.*

*Dr Alastair Masser focuses on conflict, security, and development in sub-Saharan Africa. He is a former UK Government Special Adviser, and has published a number of reports on issues including the drivers of development, post-conflict reconciliation, and migration and trafficking. He runs a social impact consultancy conducting research examining Nigeria's security crisis and plans to be an active commentator and election observer for the country's 2023 presidential campaign. Ahead of this, he is preparing a book manuscript for publication in 2022, based upon his PhD thesis which he completed at the Department of War Studies in 2020.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wednesday 5 May at 2pm, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 5.30pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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# The European Green Deal after the Pandemic

Monday 10 May 2021: 12pm for 12.30pm-2pm AEST  
RMIT University, 124 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, 3000

The global challenges of climate change and environmental degradation require a global response. The European Green Deal, announced by the European Commission in December 2019, commits the EU to becoming climate-neutral by 2050, and helping companies become world leaders in clean products and green technologies.



Until now, the fight against climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution has struggled to attract enough funding. But COVID-19 has demonstrated that urgent global action is possible, and has highlighted the role that the Green Deal can **play in Europe's post-COVID recovery and growth**.

How has the pandemic affected the timetable for the European Green Deal? What opportunities do pandemic recovery plans offer to redesign sustainable, inclusive economies? What can Australia learn from the European Green Deal?

To mark *Europe Day* (held each year on 9 May), you are invited to a panel discussion hosted by the EU Delegation to Australia, RMIT University, and the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) Victoria:

- HE Dr Michael Pulch, EU Ambassador to Australia: *Introductory remarks on the European Green Deal*
- David Suder, Monash University: *Can Australia Leverage the European Green Deal to Boost its own Energy Transition?*
- Marian Wilkinson: *Australia's Climate Policy in the Lead Up to the Glasgow COP26*

*His Excellency Dr Michael Pulch is the European Union Ambassador to Australia, following his previous term as EU Ambassador to Singapore. Before that Dr Pulch headed the Russia Division in the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels, where he coordinated EU policies on Russia and chaired the EU Interservice Group on Russia. From 2006 to 2011 he was posted to Beijing as Deputy Chief of Mission of the EU Delegation to China, in charge of EU policies on China and relations with Mongolia. Dr Pulch entered the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1986, serving in the United Nations Directorate before he was attached to the German embassy in Seoul as a political officer.*

*David Suder is Deputy Executive Director, Buildings & Property and Director, Campus Development at Monash University. He is an innovative and customer focused Senior Executive, with significant expertise in capital works focused on sustainable environmental management and services, sustainable infrastructure and change management, within key industries and across large private and public organisations. His most recent expert advisory for the State Government of Victoria centred on waste-to-energy.*

*Marian Wilkinson is regarded as one of the most distinguished journalists in Australia. A member of the Australian Media Hall of Fame, Marian was a pioneer in the resurgence of Australian investigative journalism. She was a senior journalist for many years with The Sydney Morning Herald, serving as its Washington correspondent, Environment Editor and Deputy Editor. She also worked as a senior reporter and executive producer for the ABC's Four Corners program. She was a co-author with David Marr of Dark Victory (A&U, 2003) and the author of The Fixer: The Untold Story of Graham Richardson (William Heinemann, 1996). Her latest book The Carbon Club was published in September 2020.*

[\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)

**ENTRY FREE, BUT REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL. REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.**



## Meet the Ambassador Series – European Union

HE Dr Michael Pulch, Ambassador of the European Union

Monday 10 May 2021: 5pm for 5:30-6:30pm AEST Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

The European Union and Australia enjoy a strong, dynamic and continuously evolving partnership, the foundations of which were laid in the 1960s.

An umbrella Framework Agreement was signed in 2017 and is currently being provisionally applied. This Agreement updates and expands the bilateral relationship further deepening our shared values and close historical, political, economic and cultural ties.



The EU and Australia are like-minded partners on the international stage and work together to find solutions to global challenges, both bilaterally and multilaterally. Strategic cooperation is ongoing in areas such as counter-terrorism, development and humanitarian aid, the promotion of human rights as well as supporting the rules-based international system.

What are some of the challenges in a post-COVID world that the EU and Australia can work on together? How do EU interests in the Indo-Pacific align **with Australia's**?

To mark *Europe Day* (held on 9 May each year), and co-hosting with the [European Delegation to Australia](#), AIIA Victoria invites you to join HE Dr Michael Pulch and Jim Middleton for the latest instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series.



*His Excellency Dr Michael Pulch is the European Union Ambassador to Australia, following his previous term as EU Ambassador to Singapore. Before that Dr Pulch headed the Russia Division in the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels, where he coordinated EU policies on Russia and chaired the EU Interservice Group on Russia. From 2006 to 2011 he was posted to Beijing as Deputy Chief of Mission of the EU Delegation to China, in charge of EU policies on China and relations with Mongolia. Dr Pulch entered the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1986, serving in the United Nations Directorate before he was attached to the German embassy in Seoul as a political officer.*



*In a 50-year journalistic career as a political reporter Jim Middleton has reported extensively from all countries in Southeast and North Asia (apart from North Korea) as well as India and Pakistan. From 1980-86 he was the ABC's North America correspondent in New York and Washington; from 1988-2007 he was the ABC's Chief Political Correspondent and later Political Editor in Canberra. From 2008-2014 he was Chief Anchor for the Australia Network (the ABC's overseas network), and then for Sky News Australia. He was a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne from 2015-2017.*

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**Webinar:** Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10

# India's Geopolitical Role in the Indo-Pacific

Prof. Rory Medcalf, Ms. Harinder Sidhu and Dr. Pradeep Taneja with Richard Iron CMG OBE

Tuesday 18 May 2021: 5pm for 5.30pm - 7pm (AEST), 12:30pm - 2:30pm (IST) Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, 3002

As one of the largest liberal democracies in Asia, India's role within the Indo-Pacific region has become an increasingly "hot" topic of political analysis and investigation. With so much focus on tensions between the US and China, the rise of India has largely gone unnoticed prompting governments to develop clear and long-term strategies for engagement with India. With a population of almost 1.4 billion people and cities with economies the size of middle-income countries, India provides huge growth opportunities for Australia. Moreover, as a nuclear power that is no stranger to protecting its borders from hostile neighbours, India is also considered an important strategic partner on issues of national security, both through its membership to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) and within other "minilateral" groups taking shape in the region.



What does a strategic partnership with India bring to the defence, security and sustainability of the Indo-Pacific region? How can Australia adjust its security and defence policy to reflect a more cooperative and reliable partnership with India moving forward? Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, how have India's relationships changed with its neighbours?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join a panel discussion with Professor Rory Medcalf, Ms. Harinder Sidhu and Dr. Pradeep Taneja moderated by Richard Iron.

This event is in partnership with DFAT Victoria State Office, Asialink, Australia India Institute, Confederation of Indian Industry, Australia - India Chamber of Commerce and Global Victoria.

*Professor Rory Medcalf has been Head of the National Security College at Australian National University in Canberra since January 2015. Before that he was Director of the Lowy Institute's International Security Program from 2007 to 2015. He is a former diplomat which included a posting to New Delhi, intelligence analyst and journalist whose work covers a wide spectrum of strategic and geopolitical issues in the Indo-Pacific region. His latest work [Contest for the Indo-Pacific: Why China Won't Map the Future](#) (La Trobe University Press) was published in March 2020.*

*Ms. Harinder Sidhu is Deputy Secretary, Service Delivery Group in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. From 2016 to 2020, Harinder held the post of Australia's High Commissioner to India and Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bhutan. Prior to her posting to India, she served as head of DFAT's Multilateral Policy Division with responsibility for Australia's relationships with the UN and UN agencies, the UN Security Council and the Commonwealth. Harinder brings over 30 years' experience in government across several APS agencies.*

*Dr Pradeep Taneja is a Senior Lecturer in Asian politics at the University of Melbourne, where he is concurrently a Member of the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies and an Academic Fellow of the Australia India Institute (AII). He is also a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs. His publications include [China Since 1978: Reform Modernisation and Socialism with Chinese Characteristics](#) (with Mackerras and Young) and numerous book chapters and journal articles. He tweets at [@PradeepKTaneja](#).*

*Richard Iron CMG OBE served for 37 years in the British Army, largely spent on operations in Northern Ireland, the Sultanate of Oman, the Falkland Islands, the Balkans and Iraq. He writes and lectures widely on strategy, the Middle East and counter-insurgency. Richard has been President of AIIA Victoria since 2020.*

## **BOOK ONLINE**

**In-person:** Premium and Student members free; Regular members \$20. Non-Members \$30

**Webinar:** Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10



**Australian Institute  
of International Affairs**  
*Victoria*

This event is open to all and will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Tuesday 18 May at 2pm AEST, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The event will commence at 5:30pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

### **BOOK ONLINE**

In-person: Premium and Student members free; Regular members \$20. Non-Members \$30

Webinar: Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10



# Peace Operations and the International Order

Dr Shannon Zimmerman, Postdoctoral Research Fellow RMIT University

Tuesday 25 May 2021: 5.30pm for 6pm-7pm AEST Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

With the rise of liberal interventionism, peace operations now intervene within, rather than between, states. Particularly ambitious new operations, called stabilisation operations, deploy within active conflicts with mandates to use force to deter spoilers and rebuild states. The goal of these interventions was initially to support and perpetuate the liberal international order by ensuring that states modelled and upheld minimum democratic principles.



**The events of 9/11 and the subsequent 'Global War on Terror', however, shifted the priorities** of powerful states and competing narratives for peace operations emerged: one emphasising supporting states to fulfill their democratic duties and the other focused on enabling states to stop and prevent terrorist threats. The presence of competing conceptions of the state has important implications for the creation of a viable state during post-conflict state building – particularly if militarised conceptions of statehood are forced upon recipient states without consideration of their own unique history of state formation.

What happens when conflicting ideas about the nature and role of the state are present in peace operations? Which understanding of sovereignty prevails and what are the implications of this on sustainable peace?

To mark the [UN Day of International Peacekeepers](#) (29 May), AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Shannon Zimmerman to discuss the intricacies of peacebuilding and more importantly peacekeeping in the international order.



*Dr Shannon Zimmerman is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies at RMIT University. She holds a Masters in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She is currently working on her first book which focuses on the role of peace operations in the international order. She specifically looks at how the norms of Protection of Civilians (PoC) and concepts of counter-terrorism interact and are implemented at the mission level. She has published in several academic journals and regularly contributes to the AIIA's Australian Outlook.*

This event is open to all and will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Tuesday 25 May at 2pm, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The event will commence at 6pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

RSVP: TEL: (03) 9654 7271 or [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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In-person: Premium and Student members free; Regular members \$10. Non-members \$20

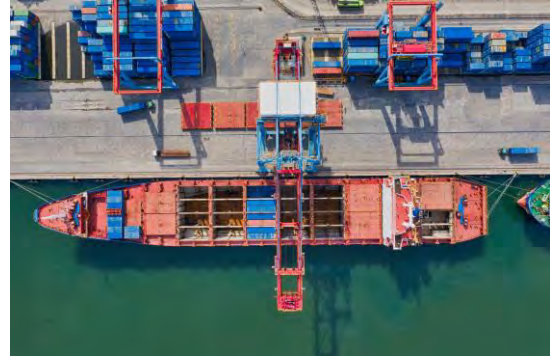
Webinar: Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10

# Trade & Investment Opportunities between Australia and India

Michelle Wade, Raji Sivakumar, Ambassador Anil Wadhwa & Tarandeep Singh Ahuja with Lisa Singh

Tuesday 1 June 2021: 5pm for 5.30pm - 7pm (AEST), 12:30pm - 2:30pm (IST) Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Level 1, Sidney Myer Asia Centre

2021 marks thirty years since Australia entered an unprecedented stretch of economic growth. It also marks thirty years since **economic reforms enabled India's trade liberalisation** and its entry into the global economy. Since **then, the complementarity between Australia's economic stability and India's rapid growth has led economists to believe the two countries are ideal strategic partners providing huge growth opportunities for one another across a number of sectors.** As a country that is expected to become **the world's second largest economy by 2050, India provides secure market access for Australian businesses whilst Australia's resources offer India an avenue for meeting the demands of its growing population.** Two economic strategy reports from both the Australian perspective (Varghese, 2018) and Indian perspective (Wadhwa, 2020) today represent the cornerstone of the Australia-India trade and investment relationship.



What are the two-way trade & investment opportunities between India and Australia? How can Australia lift India into its top three export markets? What effects will rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific have on the flow of goods, services, capital and labour in a post-COVID world? How does the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) seek to deepen the Australia-India partnership?

In joint partnership with Asialink Business, AIIA Victoria invites you to join a panel discussion with Ms Michelle Wade, Ms. Raji Sivakumar, Ambassador Anil Wadhwa and Mr. Tarandeep Singh Ahuja moderated by the Hon. Lisa Singh.

This event is sponsored by Asialink Business, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Australia - India Chamber of Commerce (AICC).

Ms Michelle Wade is the Victorian Government Commissioner to South Asia. Michelle is responsible for teams in Bangalore and Mumbai, delivering trade, investment and education outcomes for Victoria. Previously, she spent 15 years as an Austrade Trade Commissioner in Madrid, Milan and Kuala Lumpur, specialising in infrastructure, renewables investment and education.

Ms Raji Sivakumar is the COO of Appearance - a global emerging technology company providing innovation, immersive technology systems and solutions to the enterprise. Focused on mobilizing global resources, her specialty is to bring together international teams to deliver high impact, bleeding edge solutions and services. Her expertise includes systems thinking, cross border teams and delivery, financial strategy, change management, people and culture propagation.

Ambassador Anil Wadhwa has 37 years experience as a member of the Indian foreign service. He has been Ambassador of India to Italy, Thailand, Oman, Poland, San Marino and Lithuania. He was also Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs and oversaw relations with ASEAN, South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Ambassador Wadhwa led the Australia Economic Strategy Report (2020) for the Indian Government.

Mr. Tarandeep Singh Ahuja **leads McKinsey's product development and procurement work across the Indo-Pacific region and the firm's energy work** in Australia and New Zealand. He has extensive experience in strategy, procurement and supply chain, operations, and large scale performance transformations across industries.

The Hon. Lisa Singh is the Deputy Chair of the Australia India Council Board, an Asialink Council Member and former Australian Senator with 20 years of parliamentary experience. In recognition of her advocacy, the President of India awarded her the highest civilian honour, the *Pravasi Bharatiya Samman*, for her exceptional and meritorious public service fostering friendly relations between India and Australia.

## Britain after Brexit

A discussion with former MP Robert Jackson

Wednesday 2 June 2021 6pm-7pm AEST

Webinar

Just over a year after leaving the European Union, the UK is well and truly in the post-Brexit era.

Pundits predicted social discord, a failing economy, and a breakdown of relations with Europe.

But is the future as bleak as some commentators would have us believe?



While there are serious questions to be asked about the constitutional future of the United Kingdom, and its future political and party structures, Britain will continue to be a significant world power – **one of the world's largest economies, NATO's second military power, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and one of the world's leading cultural and scientific centres.**

**What impact has the COVID pandemic had on public opinion of the UK's independence? What are the prospects for Britain's political scene, its economy, and future trade agreements? What is the place of the UK in the shifting balances of global geopolitics?**

AIIA Victoria invites you to join former MP Robert Jackson – **originally a "Remainer"** in the 2016 Referendum – who will argue that Britain is perfectly capable of making its way in the world, and that while departing the EU must involve some losses, it has every prospect of bringing many gains.



*Robert Jackson was born in South Africa in 1946. Educated at Oxford, he went into British politics, in which he served as a Member of the first directly elected European Parliament between 1979-1984, and as an MP between 1983-2005. This tenure included a time as Minister for Higher Education and Science. He had worked as a political advisor to senior ministers prior to being elected and as a political advisor to the Governor of Rhodesia, during its transition to independence as Zimbabwe. He is a former editor of The Round Table, an international relations journal concerning the Commonwealth of Nations, and former editor of the Chatham House journal, International Affairs.*

This event is online only. Registrations close on Wed 2 June at 2pm, after which you will receive an email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar. The webinar will commence at 6pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

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# Australia and **India's Soft Power Diplomacy**

Ms Molina Asthana, Prof. Shaun Star, Dr. Pippa Dickson with Dr. Karen Barker

Tuesday 15 June: 5.30pm-7pm (AEST), 1:00pm-2:30pm (IST).

Webinar

The Indian diaspora in Australia stands at over 700,000 people and prior to COVID-19, India was the second largest source of international students. The people-to-people links have always been a strength of the India-Australia relationship but how will the post-COVID environment change that? The links that have been so beneficial to closer integration, international students and migration are now closed. When they resume, will they be the same? The special relationship between the two nations is built on these historic people-to-people links which need to be utilised in new ways to create opportunities in sport, culture and international education, including the growth in female involvement in these areas.



While our mutual love for cricket has always facilitated a strong partnership and cooperation, today it has progressed to a much deeper, more nuanced level. The diaspora will indeed have a big role to play in shaping future perceptions, creating personal links, in business, the arts, education, and civil society and anchoring the Australia-India partnership.

In joint partnership with the Australia India Institute (AII), AIIA Victoria invites you to join a panel discussion with Ms Molina Asthana, Prof. Shaun Star, Dr. Pippa Dickson moderated by Dr. Karen Barker.

This event is sponsored by the Australia India Institute (AII) and Asialink Business.

*Ms. Molina Asthana is the Principal Solicitor at Swarup Asthana Lawyers and Business Advisors, focusing on commercial law and cross-border work between Australia and India. Previously, Molina was a Principal Solicitor with the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office (VGSO), working on major projects for the State of Victoria. Molina is the first Indian-born on the board of the [Law Institute of Victoria](#) which is the peak body that governs the legal profession in Victoria and the National Vice President of the Asian Australian Lawyer's Association. Molina also sits on various other boards including the AFL South East Commission Advisory Board, Gymnastics Victoria, Graduate House of the University of Melbourne and Good Shepherd ANZ and the founder of the NFP Multicultural Women in Sport. Molina is also a member of the Football Federation of Victoria Tribunal, and was also previously the co-chair of the Women in Business Chapter of the Australia India Business Council.*

*Prof. Shaun Star is the Executive Director of the [Centre for India Australia Studies](#) at O.P. Jindal Global University as well as the former chair and co-founder of the Australia India Youth Dialogue. Previous to his role as Associate Professor & Associate Dean at Jindal Global Law School, Shaun worked as a lawyer at various top-tier law firms in Australia and India. He has published a book [Australia and India: A Comparative Overview of the Law and Legal Practice](#). His opinion pieces have also been featured in Indian and Australian national newspapers and he has participated in several panel sessions on Indian prime time television.*

*Dr. Pippa Dickson is the Director of [Asialink Arts](#) at Asialink. Pippa has extensive arts leadership experience both nationally and internationally. In addition to positions as the Director of the [National Association for Visual Artists \(NAVA\)](#) and Co-Chair of the National Craft Initiative, Pippa founded Design Island for Arts Tasmania and is the founding CEO of the Glenorchy Art & Sculpture Park. Previously, Pippa worked as a project manager and consultant in the private and public sectors for over 15 years. Outside Australia, her achievements include International Advisor to the Cheongju International Craft Biennale (South Korea) and mentorship at the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (Hong Kong) with former CEO Michael Lynch, AO OBE in 2015.*

*Dr. Karen Barker is Executive Manager at the Australia India Institute (AII) where she leads the delivery of government projects supporting the Australia-India education relationship. She has over fifteen years' experience in international education and previously led the International Partnerships team in the University of Melbourne's International Relations Office. She has also held strategic planning and management roles at the University of Melbourne and has also worked as a government solicitor in contract law.*

## **BOOK ONLINE**

**Webinar:** Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10

Asialink Business guests : Free

Australia India Institute Members: Free

This event is online only. Registrations close on Tuesday 15 June at 2pm AEST, after which you will receive a follow-up email containing details of how to join the Zoom webinar.

The event will commence on Tuesday 15 June at 5:30pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

## Sri Lanka's Geopolitics and Trade Potential

Mr. Kapila Fonseka, Ms. Kimarli Fernando, Mr. Sarinda Unamboowe, Mr. Kalum de Silva and Mr. Asanga Abeyagoonsekara with Dr. Rebecca Strating

Tuesday 29 June: 5pm for 5.30 - 7pm (AEST), 1pm - 2:30pm (SLT) Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Commonly referred to as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean', Sri Lanka had a growing economy before the COVID-19 pandemic and has a diaspora of over 170,000 in Australia. With over 2,000 years of trading history with major powers such as China and India, Sri Lanka is today considered an important strategic partner for countries in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, presenting significant trade and investment opportunities in exports, services and education, as well as being an important security partner **for Australia on matters of transnational crime.** Sri Lanka's ports are at key locations on global shipping lanes, making them a key strategic asset, and of interest to many countries. Sri Lanka is also leading the way in developing COVID-safe travel plans to revive its tourism sector in a post-COVID world. As geopolitical tensions continue to rise, particularly between Sri Lanka's neighbours and within the U.S-China relationship more broadly, Sri Lanka faces challenges in sustaining its economic growth and ensuring regional stability.



Sri Lanka is also leading the way in developing COVID-safe travel plans to revive its tourism sector in a post-COVID world. As geopolitical tensions continue to rise, particularly between Sri Lanka's neighbours and within the U.S-China relationship more broadly, Sri Lanka faces challenges in sustaining its economic growth and ensuring regional stability.

What are the main export and import opportunities offered by Sri Lanka? What are the two-way trade and investment opportunities between Sri Lanka and Australia? What geopolitical role does Sri Lanka play for the rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join a discussion with Mr. Kapila Fonseka, Ms. Kimarli Fernando, Mr. Sarinda Unamboowe, Mr. Kalum de Silva and Mr. Asanga Abeyagoonsekara moderated by Dr. Rebecca Strating.

This event is supported by the Consulate General of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Melbourne and the Sri Lanka Australia Chamber of Commerce (SLACC).

*Mr. Kapila Fonseka is the third Consul General of Sri Lanka in Melbourne, with jurisdiction over the States of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.*

*Ms. Kimarli Fernando is the Chairperson of Sri Lanka Tourism, heading the Government's four main Tourism entities; Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, Sri Lanka Conventions Bureau, and Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management.*

*Mr. Sarinda Unamboowe is the CEO of MAS Kreeda (a major apparel and textile company) and a member of the board of MAS Capital. Prior to this he was a banker, stockbroker and headed a supermarket chain.*

*Mr. Kalum de Silva is an Australia based finance professional with over 20 years' experience in Private Equity and International Business, and is the National President of the Sri Lanka Australia Chamber of Commerce (SLACC).*

*Mr. Asanga Abeyagoonsekara is an International Security and Geopolitics Analyst and Strategic Advisor. Previously, he has served the government of Sri Lanka, and presently serves as the Senior Advisor on Security and Geopolitics to the Leader of the Opposition Sri Lanka Parliament.*

*Dr. Rebecca Strating is the Executive Director of La Trobe Asia and a Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations in the Department of Politics, Media and Philosophy at La Trobe University.*

RSVP: [BOOK ONLINE](#) or call (03) 9654 7271

**In-person:** AIIA VIC Premium and Student members free; Regular members \$20. Non-members \$30. Student Non-members \$10. SLACC members free.

**Webinar:** Free for all AIIA and SLACC members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10



# The Taiwan Test: How to Keep Democracy Alive in Asia

Dr Mark Harrison, Natasha Kassam and Dr Alan Dupont with Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA

Wednesday 30 June 2021: 5pm for 5:30pm-7pm AEST Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

For those with an interest in the Indo-Pacific, the political uncertainty and tension surrounding Taiwan – officially the Republic of China – is cause for constant debate. While Cross-Strait relations and the competing narratives between the mainland China and Taiwan continue to burgeon, analysts and observers describe the issues surrounding Taiwan, chiefly its political independence and national security as becoming increasingly “hotter”.



President Tsai-Ing Wen and her ruling Democratic Progressive Party have openly opposed the militarisation of the island's surrounds and have called upon allies, like Australia and the US, to ensure Taiwan's sovereignty remains intact.

As a neighbouring democracy, what exactly is Australia's Taiwan policy? How is it managed alongside chilling relations with China? As tensions escalate, what do experts see as the next flashpoint in the region?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join a panel discussion with Dr Mark Harrison, Natasha Kassam, Dr Alan Dupont and moderated by Rowan Callick.

*Dr Mark Harrison is Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies at the University of Tasmania in the Politics and International Relations Program in the School of Social Sciences. He is also an Adjunct Director of the Australian Centre on China in the World at the Australian National University. His academic work examines contemporary culture and politics in the Chinese-speaking world, using a distinctive theoretically informed style and with a particular interest in Taiwan.*

*Natasha Kassam is Director of the Lowy Institute's Public Opinion and Foreign Policy Program. She is a former Australian diplomat, researching Australia's Indo-Pacific strategy, China's domestic politics, Taiwan, and Australia-China relations. She is also a Fellow of the ANU National Security College's Futures Council for 2020-21. Natasha is a regular contributor to Australian and international media outlets including CNN, BBC, Bloomberg, CNBC and the New York Times.*

*Dr Alan Dupont is founder and CEO of the Cognoscenti Group, a political and strategic risk consultancy, and one of Australia's best known strategists, Asianists and thought leaders. He has received commendations for his work from the governments of Japan and East Timor and was recently named by the Australian Financial Review as one of Australia's top two strategists. Alan was the inaugural holder of the Michael Hintze Chair in International Security at the University of Sydney and the first CEO of the United States Studies Centre.*

*Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA is an Industry Fellow at Griffith University's Asia Institute. He was Beijing-based China Correspondent of The Australian for two terms, following 20 years with The Australian Financial Review including as China Correspondent based in Hong Kong. He was also Asia-Pacific Editor for both newspapers. He has won a Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year and two Walkley Awards.*

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