



# Australian Institute of International Affairs *Victoria*

THE 2021-22 YEAR IN REVIEW

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SPEAKER EVENTS/WEBINARS

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## Party Time! China's Communists Celebrate Their Extraordinary Century

Dr Geremie R. Barmé with Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA

Wednesday 7 July: 5pm for 5:30pm-7pm AEST

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

AIIA Victoria is delighted to host one of the world's greatest sinologists, Australian Geremie Barmé, discussing the rise and rise – and occasional stumble – of the Chinese Communist Party since its inaugural meeting in Shanghai from 23 July 1921, becoming today the most powerful political organisation in the world.



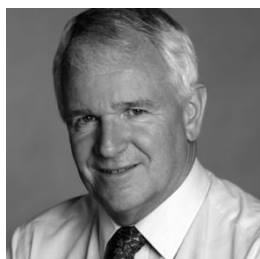
He will discuss, in conversation with Rowan Callick, the Party's founding under the vigilant eyes of the Soviet Comintern, its rupture with the then ruling Kuomintang (Nationalist Party), the emergence of Mao Zedong as leader during the Long March that framed its continuing core founding-myths, the impact of the Japanese invasion, the civil war that culminated in 1949 with the defeat of the Kuomintang under Chiang Kai-shek, the Anti-Rightist Movement, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, the Reform-and-Opening under Deng Xiaoping, the Tiananmen protests, the "routinisation" rule of Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, and today's bold "New Era" – including a partial return to Old Maoism – under Xi Jinping.

Dr Barmé will talk via Zoom from his present base in New Zealand to Rowan and a live audience at the AIIA centre in Melbourne, and to others also viewing via Zoom.

The conversation will cover not only the politics of the CCP's century but also the cultural settings and the deeply personal drivers and shapers of events.



**Dr Geremie R. Barmé** is an internationally-renowned expert on both traditional and contemporary China. He is an academic, an author, and a film-maker. He was the Chair Professor of Chinese History at the Australian National University, where he was also inaugural director of the Australian Centre on China in the World. His films include *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* set during the dramatic events in 1989, and *Morning Sun*, on the Cultural Revolution. His China Heritage website is followed globally. In 2016 he founded near Wellington, New Zealand, the Wairirapa Academy for New Sinology, with celebrated Chinese translator John Minford.



**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 written three books on contemporary China, published in both English and Chinese, including on the Communist Party. He has won a Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year and two Walkley Awards.

**This event is open all (subject to prevailing COVID restrictions) and will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on 7 July 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)**

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

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In-person: Premium and Student members free; Regular members \$20. Non-members \$30 Student non-members \$10.

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



## ***Our Home in Myanmar* – Book Launch**

Jessica Mudditt – Author and Freelance Journalist

Thursday 8 July 2021: 5.30pm for 6pm-7pm AEST Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Myanmar has been making front page headlines for all the wrong reasons of late. Following a military coup on 1 February and the removal of Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government, it has been plunged back into dictatorship. The people of Myanmar are defying the brutal junta with a civil disobedience movement and mass protests. The country is on the brink of civil war and it may become a failed state.



Has Myanmar's decade-long experiment with democracy ended, or will the turmoil eventually usher in a new era for Myanmar – and at what cost to human life?

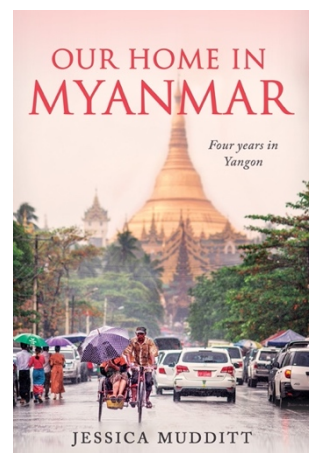
Journalist Jessica Mudditt has written a memoir about the four years she lived in Yangon. *Our Home in Myanmar* documents a period of great hope and progress for the country, despite the challenges that abounded. During the historic elections of 2015, Jessica was the first expatriate journalist to work for the country's state-run newspaper, *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

As well as discussing her new book, Jessica will provide dispatches from her contacts on the ground. She will relay their hopes and fears and provide a glimpse of how the most basic aspects of daily life have been upended.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Jessica Mudditt for the launch of her new book. Copies will be available for sale and for signing on the night.



**Jessica Mudditt** is a Sydney-based journalist whose articles have been published by *The Economist*, *BBC*, *CNN*, *GQ* and *Marie Claire*. She often writes about business, technology and lifestyle. As well as contributing to a host of national and regional magazines, she was an editor at *The Myanmar Times* and a consultant at the British Embassy and the United Nations. A dollar from every book sold will go towards supporting democracy protesters in Myanmar, via Support Myanmar.



**This event is open to all and will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Thursday 8 July 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).**

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

## **Young Professionals Networking Drinks**

Wednesday 14 July: **5.30pm – 7.30pm at The Kelvin Club, 14-30 Melbourne Place, Melbourne 3000**



AIIA VIC warmly welcomes you to our second 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!**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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



## **Afghanistan: On The Brink of Disaster**

Emeritus Professor William Maley AM FAIIA

Monday 26 July: 6pm-7pm AEST **WEBINAR**

The Biden administration's decision to withdraw forces from Afghanistan by the 31st of August will mark the end of Australia and the United States' longest war, leaving many questioning the future of the country. After twenty years, there is significant reflection on the outcome of the conflict.



The continually shifting goals of this war — from fighting Al-Qaeda to the development of democratisation programs that saw a growth in women's rights and education, is one example that underscores the complex nature of the conflict. Will all that has been achieved be rolled back if the Taliban take control of Afghanistan?

Even after a twenty-year conflict, the US were unable to meet all of their policy objectives within the country. What does US withdrawal from Afghanistan mean for US global power? What will the future hold for Afghanistan?

Questions around the stability of the US-backed Afghan state, the re-emergence of Taliban control in vast areas of the country, and the ability of Afghanistan to combat terrorist threats after the withdrawal are all questions of great importance to the US, its allies, and the region.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Emeritus Professor William Maley, as he reflects upon the past, and speaks about the reversal of progress found in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US and allied forces. Following his recent article, [On the brink of disaster](#), published in *The Conversation*, he will be covering the current state of Afghanistan and its prospects, following the withdrawal of US and allied forces.



**William Maley AM FAIIA** is Emeritus Professor at The Australian National University, where he was Professor of Diplomacy from 2003-2021. He is a Member of the Order of Australia, a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. He was admitted as a Barrister of the High Court of Australia in 1982. In November 2003, he received the AUSTCARE Paul Cullen Humanitarian Award for services to refugees. He is author of *Rescuing Afghanistan* (2006), *What is a Refugee?* (2016), *Transition in Afghanistan: Hope, Despair and the Limits of Statebuilding* (2018), *The Afghanistan Wars* (2021), and *Diplomacy, Communication, and Peace: Selected Essays* (2021).

**This event is open to all via Zoom. Registrations close on 27 July 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: [BOOK ONLINE](#) or call (03) 9654 7271

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## Iran's Foreign Policy under New Leadership

Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh

Tuesday 3 August: 6pm-7pm AEST **WEBINAR**

Iran's President-elect, Ebrahim Raisi, takes office in August; and there appears to be a possibility for the restoration of the "Iran Nuclear Deal", the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The JCPOA, signed by Iran and the five members of the UN Security Council and Germany in 2013, has been a lightning rod for speculation, concern, and a focus of foreign policy experts. The US withdrawal from the agreement in 2018 by President Donald Trump has only heightened the interest in the JCPOA over the last three years.



Iran's economic decline and mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic has alienated much of its population, and relief from sanctions is much needed for economic recovery. Although Raisi has previously opposed the JCPOA, he emphasised, ahead of the presidential elections his commitment to the deal, suggesting a forthcoming revival of the JCPOA. Such a stance seems like a bold position to take given the current Iranian political environment.

How will Raisi approach these potential negotiations? How does the US Administration view these re-negotiations, given their withdrawal seemingly was a catalyst for the agreement's destabilisation? How will the Biden administration counter Iran's continued efforts, aid, influence, and military assistance in the region while renegotiating the JCPOA?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh, as he discusses the future of the JCPOA and its implications for regional dynamics in the Persian Gulf. Following his recent article, [Iran under a conservative president still needs the JCPOA](#), published in *Al Jazeera*, he will be providing an overview of the future of the Iranian nuclear deal and Iran's regional agenda.



**Shahram Akbarzadeh** is Convenor of the Middle East Studies Forum and Research Professor in Middle East and Central Asian Politics at Deakin University. He is the Deputy Director (International) of the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University. He held a prestigious ARC Future Fellowship (2013-2016) on the Role of Islam in Iran's Foreign Policy-making and recently completed a Qatar Foundation grant on Sectarianism in the Middle East. Prof Akbarzadeh has an extensive publication record and has contributed to public debate on topics such as democracy and political processes in the Middle East, regional rivalry and Islamic militancy. Prof Akbarzadeh was the founding President of the Australian Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies (AAIMS) Inc. (2016-2019).

**This event is open to all via Zoom. Registrations close on 3 August 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).**

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# Our Exceptional Friend: Australia's Fatal Alliance with the United States

Dr Emma Shortis, RMIT University

Tuesday 31 August: 6pm-7pm AEST

**WEBINAR**

2021 marks the seventieth anniversary of the Australia, New Zealand and United States Security Treaty (ANZUS Treaty), symbolising the long-standing Australia-US security alliance.

In '[Our Exceptional Friend](#)', Dr Emma Shortis questions Australia's relationship with the United States, highlighting the need to look beyond the US and to diversify to find new strategic partners. Challenging the perception that Australia has a binary choice between the US and China, Shortis combines history, current affairs and ideals of morality to develop a justification to overhaul Australia's seemingly most important political relationship.

This attempt to look beyond the seeming binary choice between the US and China has been a focus of many recent works, highlighting its importance on Australia's short- and medium-term future. Shortis' addition is adept and thoughtful, and poses questions on whether Australia should limit itself to the status quo in its association with the US?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Emma Shortis to discuss Australia's fatal alliance with the United States. Copies of her book will be available for sale and for signing on the night.



**Dr Emma Shortis** is a nationally recognised expert in the history and politics of the United States, and a research fellow at RMIT University. Emma also co-hosts RMIT's popular history podcast, *Barely Gettin' By*. She writes regularly for mainstream media including ABC News Online and the Sydney Morning Herald. Before joining RMIT, Emma spent a year in the United States as the Fox-Zucker International Fellow at Yale University, where she finished writing her PhD in History. In 2020, she was named RMIT's Media Commentator of the year.



**This event is open to all via Zoom. Registrations close on 31 August 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).**

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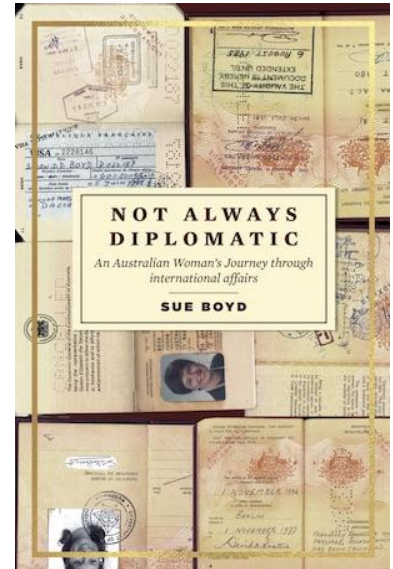
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## Not Always Diplomatic

Dr Sue Boyd

Wednesday 8 September: 6pm-7pm AEST **WEBINAR**

AIIA Victoria is delighted to host Dr Sue Boyd. Dr Boyd has 33 years experience in diplomacy, serving as Australia's High Commissioner in Bangladesh and Fiji, Ambassador in Vietnam, and Consul General in Hong Kong. Her memoir, '[Not Always Diplomatic](#)' encompasses her family's experiences, from her father serving in the British Army in British Raj, attending thirteen schools in 5 countries, to beginning her career in the diplomatic service. Boyd recounts her experiences as a woman in international relations, overcoming barriers and challenges throughout her many postings, including to Portugal, East Germany, the United Nations in New York. She shares her personal stories as a diplomat, living in a foreign country, and managing an embassy as well as providing a personal description of the Speight coup of May 2000. Sue will discuss her new book and her reflections on her career in the Australian Foreign Service involving the Portuguese Carnation Revolution, the Stasi in East Germany, managing public affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Sue Boyd for the launch of her new book. Copies will be available for sale and for signing on the night.



**Dr Sue Boyd** has served in a number of Australian diplomatic positions, having joined DFAT in 1970, serving in Portugal, East Germany and at the UN in New York. She was High Commissioner in Bangladesh and Fiji, Ambassador in Vietnam and Consul General in Hong Kong. Since returning to Western Australia after her retirement in 2003, she became the President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs in WA for eight years and was subsequently made a fellow of the AIIA for her contribution to Australia's international relations.

**This event is open to all via Zoom. Registrations close on 8 August 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).**

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## Women in International Affairs

Dr Jenna Sapiano, Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre

Monday 13 September: 5:30pm for 6pm-7pm AEST Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

There has been significant progress to overcome the gender imbalance in international relations, with greater gender diversity in the sector. The strength of increasing female voices, especially in academia, means wider perspectives and new ways of examining issues can be explored. This is especially important in peace mediation and international law, where women's participation in peace processes have shown to reduce conflict and advance stability.



As part of its '**Women in International Affairs**' series, AIIA Victoria invites you to celebrate the achievements of women in international relations, reflect critically on the barriers women face, and meet extraordinary women currently forging careers in the international relations sector.

Dr Jenna Sapiano will give her insights on the role of women in academia, through sharing her personal experience working as an international academic, having researched and worked in several countries including Canada, Scotland and Denmark. She will also discuss her current areas of research on gender and peace mediation, looking at contexts such as Afghanistan, Libya and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Networking and drinks to follow.



**Dr Jenna Sapiano** is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre (GPS), where her research focuses on gender and the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements. She completed her PhD in International Relations at the University of St Andrews. Her thesis was on the drafting and implementation of constitutions as part of peace settlements. Before joining GPS, Dr. Sapiano held a postdoctoral fellowship, funded by a Canada Research Chair, at Queen's University Faculty of Law. She previously worked as a Research Associate on the Legal Tools for Peace-making project at Cambridge University and held a Kathleen Fitzpatrick Research Fellowship at Melbourne Law School. Dr. Sapiano holds two Masters Degrees from the University of Edinburgh in African Studies and International Law. She holds a BA from McGill University (Montreal, Canada).

**This event is open to all (subject to prevailing COVID restrictions) and will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on 13 September 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).**

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# The Future of the European Union

A discussion with former MP Robert Jackson

Monday 20 September: 6pm-7pm AEST **WEBINAR**

The formation of the European Union (EU) is an impressive new development in world affairs, as a supranational organisation underpinned by deep economic integration. Having sustained its democratic tradition through its member states, it represents a unique form of cooperation between states.



Nonetheless, its member states are attempting to manage the COVID-19 Delta variant through accelerating vaccinations, yet are still constrained by the increasing number of cases. Pockets of anti-democratic forms of governance are appearing in member states in Eastern Europe, challenging the core values of the Union. With the United Kingdom leaving the European Single Market and European Union Customs Union in January 2021 and Europe's politics in flux, with German elections upcoming, now is the time to reflect on the future of the EU.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join former British MP and Minister Robert Jackson - who also previously served as an official at the European Commission and as a Member of the European Parliament, in examining the future of the European Union. He will look at the various factors - economic, political, social, cultural and geopolitical, that have underpinned the development of the EU and discuss how these factors will continue to have a bearing on its future. He will reflect on whether the EU can continue in its present form, and on its prospects either of advance or retreat.



**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 20 September 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: [BOOK ONLINE](#) or call (03) 9654 7271

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# Global Terrorist Movements as Global Actors

Dr David Kilcullen

Wednesday 22 September 2021: 9am-10am AEST

Webinar

AIIA Victoria in conjunction with Social Education Victoria (SEV) is pleased to announce its first 2021 webinar for students of VCE Global Politics.

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.

Students of Global Politics are invited to join one of the world's leading experts on counterterrorism and counterinsurgency to discuss key aspects of the global crisis of terrorism (as listed in the Study Design), such as the changing nature of non-state terrorism, terrorism as an instrument of state policy, and asymmetric warfare.

This webinar is open to all, and students are encouraged to ask questions via the Q&A function on Zoom after the talk. It will be recorded for later viewing.



**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*.

**This event is online only. Registrations close on Tuesday 21 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 on Wednesday 22 September at 9am AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).**

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Australian Institute  
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*Victoria*

## Young Professionals Virtual Trivia Night

Thursday 30 September 2021: 6.30pm – 8.00pm  
Theme: Around the World



Based on the success of our trivia nights in 2020, AIIA VIC has decided to hold another sensational trivia and drinks night!

This year we have a theme '**Around the World**', wear something related to the theme (hat, scarf, shirt etc.) and be prepared for four rounds of World history and geography questions. There will be an exciting prize for the winner!

Our Zoom meeting will open at 6:25pm. At 6:30pm the rules and running order will be explained. Trivia questions will go for around 45 minutes and then we will have drinks! We will finish by 8:00pm at the latest.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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 \$5 per person.

**This event is online only. After registering you will receive a follow-up confirmation email containing further details on how to join the Trivia Night, which will commence on Thursday 30 September at 6.30pm AEST (Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra time, UTC+10).** (If you believe you have not received an email by early evening Wednesday, please check your junk folder!).

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

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# Alexei Navalny and the 2021 Russian Parliamentary Elections

Assoc. Prof. William Partlett with Petr Kuzmin

Friday 1 October: 5.30-6.30pm AEST

**WEBINAR**

Alexei Navalny has been the most prominent and influential opponent of Vladimir Putin in recent years. Upon his return to Russia and immediate imprisonment in early 2021, a series of nation-wide protests took place. Navalny himself is in prison, his Anti-Corruption Foundation and his political organisation have been shut down for being “extremist organisations”, and many of his supporters have fled the country or face imprisonment themselves.



Navalny's biggest political project in recent years, the 'Smart Voting' strategy, is aimed at consolidating the protest vote and reducing the monopoly of Putin's United Russia party. Although it was blocked by the Russian authorities, the Navalny team have encouraged Russians to download an app giving them access to Smart Voting. The effectiveness of this Smart Voting strategy will be assessed in light of the Russian parliamentary election of 17-19 September 2021.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join a discussion with Associate Professor William Partlett of Melbourne Law School, and Petr Kuzmin, one of the leaders of a pro-democracy movement that sprang up in Australia and New Zealand in 2021 in reaction to political repression and protests in Russia. They will discuss Alexei Navalny's place and strategy within the political landscape, his decision to return to Russia following his poisoning, and Western reactions to him as the leading opposition figure in Russia.



**Associate Professor William Partlett** is an academic 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 *Demystifying Russia: The Navalny Movement* which explores Russia through the lens of Alexei Navalny's opposition movement.



**Petr Kuzmin** is the President of Svoboda Alliance VIC, a pro-democracy community organisation focused on promoting universal human rights and political freedoms in Russia and within the Russian diaspora of Australia. He is one of the leaders of an informal pro-democracy movement that sprang up organically in Australia and New Zealand in the wake of protests that swept Russia in 2021 upon Alexei Navalny's return and arrest. The movement, Svoboda Alliance AU&NZ, has organised coordinated solidarity rallies in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Canberra, Auckland and Wellington and is currently running a campaign to increase participation in the upcoming Russian parliamentary elections.

**This event is now online only. Registrations close on 1 October 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).**

## [BOOK ONLINE](#)

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

## **The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: COVID-19 and Overlapping Crises**

Amy McLachlan, Response Advisor (International) at Australian Red Cross

Wednesday 6 October: 6pm-7pm AEDT **WEBINAR**

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) is the world's largest humanitarian network. Guided by its Fundamental Principles, this network activates to anticipate and respond to disasters and crises under a central purpose: to help without discrimination those who suffer and thus contribute to peace in the world.



COVID-19 has presented a massive challenge to the Movement in responding to the pandemic on a global scale, while maintaining its vital humanitarian services to disaster-affected communities, and those impacted by complex crises such as those in Myanmar, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Afghanistan. This phenomenon, known as 'double disasters' or increasingly, overlapping crises, is driving change not just for the Movement, but for the humanitarian sector.

In this environment of overlapping crises, COVID-19 has been a catalyst for change. Key areas of development such as locally-led humanitarian response, anticipatory action and protracted crisis strategy have come to the fore as the Movement has adapted to address a constellation of humanitarian needs, whilst mitigating the risks and constraints of COVID-19. Looking ahead, the Movement faces significant challenges in sustaining its response to the pandemic, as well as leveraging the learnings of the last 18 months to effect lasting change in the sector.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Amy McLachlan, an International Response Advisor at the Australian Red Cross, as she discusses the role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement during the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges of managing overlapping crises.

**Amy McLachlan** is International Response Advisor at the Australian Red Cross. She monitors, analyses, and communicates emerging, sudden onset and protracted disasters and crises around the world. She provides strategic advisory, planning and resource mobilisation, coordination, advocacy, and communications for Australian Red Cross engagement in international disaster and crisis response operations and the broader humanitarian sector. Her previous roles include Humanitarian Analysis and Diplomacy at the Australian Red Cross and as a delegate with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Liberia, Nepal and Bangladesh, and with the Fiji Red Cross Society.

**This event is open to all via Zoom. Registrations close on 6 October 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).**

[\*\*BOOK ONLINE HERE\*\*](#)

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

# Why did the Afghan Army Evaporate?

Richard Iron CMG OBE in conversation with Tim Willasey-Wilsey CMG

Thursday 7 October: 6pm-7pm AEDT

Webinar

Of the approximately US\$145 billion that the U.S. government spent trying to rebuild Afghanistan over 20 years, about \$83 billion went to developing and sustaining its army and police forces, according to the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

And yet when put to the test, the Afghan Army ultimately disintegrated. The day after Kabul fell to the Taliban, President Joe Biden stated "American troops cannot and should not be fighting in a war that Afghan forces are not willing to fight for themselves".



The reality, of course, was more complex. There were certainly military factors that contributed to the Afghan Army's rapid collapse. But perhaps more important was the web of political circumstances, in Kabul, Washington DC and elsewhere, that led to the loss of the authority of, and trust in, the Afghan Government of the Ashraf Ghani; with a corresponding loss of authority and trust within the Army built to protect it.

Why did the USA so peremptorily abandon its allies of the past twenty years? To what extent was the defeat due to the Taliban; due to internal politics; or as a result of international abandonment? Will a Taliban Government be a disaster for Afghanistan and the West? What can we learn from all this?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Richard Iron in conversation with Tim Willasey-Wilsey.



**Tim Willasey-Wilsey CMG** is a Visiting Professor of War Studies at King's College London and a former senior British diplomat. After a year teaching in Ethiopia and a spell with an international packaging company Tim served for 27 years with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, latterly as a Director. He served in four overseas posts; Angola (1983-86), Central America (1986-89), Pakistan (1993-96) and at the UK Mission to the United Nations in Geneva (1999-2002). From 1993 until he retired from the FCO in 2008 Tim's main focus was on Asia. Apart from serving in Pakistan, he worked closely on India and Afghanistan and was a frequent visitor to the region.



**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 7 October 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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**Australian Institute  
of International Affairs  
Victoria**

## **Young Professionals**

# **Virtual “Careers in DFAT”**

**Monday 18 October 2021: 5.30pm– 6:30pm AEDT Webinar**

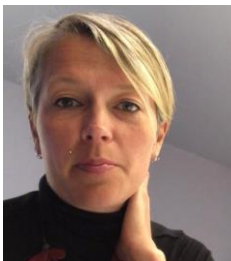
Interested in a career in diplomacy and want to know how to get there? Excited by a career advocating for Australia's national interests in international forums?

Then look no further! Join AIIA Victoria for **“Careers in DFAT”**. The event provides an opportunity for graduates and young professionals to discuss the set of skills and knowledge necessary to pursue a career at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

So, what are you waiting for! If you want to hear about the different pathways into the DFAT and learn what living in Canberra is like, then get your ticket today and join us for “Careers in DFAT”!

You will hear from two current employees of DFAT as they discuss their career path followed by Q&A where you will have the opportunity to ask questions to our speakers

AIIA Victoria invites you to join this Young Professionals event with Zoe Tiller and Markiyan Wojewidka.



**Zoe Tiller** is a foreign policy practitioner with more than fifteen years' experience in international security and diplomacy, with a focus on gender equality. She is currently coordinating the renegotiation of ten multi-year partnership arrangements with United Nations humanitarian and development agencies. Previously, she co-led Australian Government humanitarian policy and programs in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Jordan. She was posted to the Australian Embassy in Ethiopia from 2015 to 2018. She has a Masters in International Security from France's leading political science institution, Sciences Po in Paris, and Bachelors in Arts and Commerce from Melbourne University.



**Markiyan Wojewidka** has been a foreign policy and economics analyst in DFAT for almost four years, specialising in eastern Europe. Currently in the Office of the Chief Economist, he uses complex systems thinking to assess the impact of macroeconomic trends on Australia's trade and investment interests now and into the future. Markiyan has experience in development, UK politics, ICT delivery, and Australia's bilateral engagement with India, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and other eastern European and Caucasus countries. He has also completed short-term missions to Honiara and Vienna. Markiyan holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and an Honours Degree in Business Management from the Queensland University of Technology.

**This event is online only. Registrations close on 18 October at 4pm, 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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**Australian Institute  
of International Affairs**  
*Victoria*

## **The AUKUS Submarine Deal: Consequences for Global Nuclear Governance**

Dr Trevor Findlay

Tuesday 19 October: 5.30pm-6.30pm AEDT

**Webinar**

The AUKUS trilateral defence technology partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States promises key technological benefits for Australia — in cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing. The most controversial proposal is for Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. If the plan is realised, Australia would become the first non-nuclear weapon state to acquire such a capability.



The proposal raises questions about Australia's international commitments to nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear safety and nuclear security. It also has implications for the global norms, treaties and practices governing each of these fields.

The greatest impact is likely to be on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which aims to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation without interfering with states' "inalienable right" to benefit from nuclear energy's peaceful applications. To this end, it requires non-nuclear weapon states to declare all their nuclear material and tasks the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with verifying that none of it is used for military purposes. The use of highly enriched uranium by a non-nuclear weapon state for a non-explosive military purpose—submarine propulsion—outside of IAEA safeguards would be unprecedented. The full impact on the safeguards system, which Australia has long supported, is unknown at this stage, but Australia could be paving the way for other countries, such as Brazil, Iran and Pakistan, which have also expressed interest in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Trevor Findlay, one of the world's leading experts on the International Atomic Energy Agency to discuss the implications of AUKUS for global nuclear governance.



**Dr Trevor Findlay** has had almost fifty years' experience in international relations as a scholar, author and practitioner, working with governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and in academia. His lifelong specialisation has been nuclear governance, particularly disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation, nuclear safeguards, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear security. Currently a Principal Fellow at the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne, he has also been a member and chair of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board for Disarmament Matters, alongside thirteen years in the Australian diplomatic service. His latest book, *Transforming Nuclear Safeguards Culture: The IAEA, Iraq and the Future of Non-Proliferation*, will be published for Harvard by MIT Press in 2022.

**This event is online only. Registrations close on 19 October 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 Strategic Benefits of the AUKUS Deal

Dr Sidharth Kaushal, Research Fellow - Sea Power, RUSI

Tuesday 26 October: 6pm-7pm AEDT

Webinar

The recent AUKUS defence agreement concluded between Australia, the UK and the US has been met with both diplomatic fanfare in the three countries' capitals and a degree of understandable consternation in Paris.

The focus on the diplomatic fallout of the deal has, however, obscured a more salient question: what is the concrete strategic value of the deal to its participants?



Some commentators have been quick to question the wisdom of Australia purchasing nuclear attack submarines given their long build times, the numerical preponderance of China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) and the purported impact of technological change on the operating environment by the time Australia possesses such submarines.

But what capability gap could the Australian submarines help meet? What does AUKUS mean for the importance of integrating more closely with allies? What is the strategic impact for the UK in a region where it has limited hard power to call on?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Sidharth Kaushal to discuss the broader significance of a platform that can provide substantial long-term value to its participants.



***Dr Sidharth Kaushal*** is Research Fellow, Sea Power at RUSI. His research at RUSI covers the impact of technology on maritime doctrine in the 21st century and the role of sea power in a state's grand strategy. Sidharth holds a doctorate in International Relations from the London School of Economics, where his research examined the ways in which strategic culture shapes the contours of a nation's grand strategy.

**This event is online only. Registrations close on 26 October 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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## Russia-China: The New Era Alliance, its Ambitions and its Limits

Dr Marcin Kaczmarek, Dr Matthew Sussex and Dr Elizabeth Buchanan with Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA

Wednesday 27 October 5.30-7pm pm AEDT **Webinar**

Russia and China's relationship can be categorised as one of strategic convergence, where both oppose the US and its allies in key areas geographically and sectorally, and work together to restructure the current international order. Although China has benefitted from Russian military cooperation to modernise its military, their relationship remains asymmetrical in the political and economic arenas.

Russia's international power has been maintained and masked by its enormous military expenditure – 4 per cent of GDP – even as its economic performance has declined. The global influence of the People's Republic of China has in comparison risen rapidly, leveraging its economic heft to diplomatic and security areas. Whereas the two authoritarian states had an uneasy relationship as their ruling communist parties vied to dominate Central Asia, today they have developed a closer bond, with the PRC now however increasingly clearly the senior partner.



United in their resolve to counterbalance US influence in multilateral arenas, their attitude towards Biden's America is shaped by intense competition and increasing mistrust. Although US sanctions, in response to Moscow's geopolitical and influence activities, hurt Russia, Putin continues to use his pressure on Ukraine and the Baltic States, the militarisation of the Arctic and Middle East forays to reinforce domestic policy objectives. China's relationship with the US has also become increasingly competitive, categorised by increasing distrust and disagreements on a range of issues shaping the global landscape. Washington's withdrawal from Afghanistan may provide China and Russia, and their joint programs, with further opportunities to boost their influence in Asia more broadly.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Marcin Kaczmarek, Dr Matthew Sussex and Dr Elizabeth Buchanan, in conversation with Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA, to discuss the increasingly significant Sino-Russian relationship, its future and challenges.



**Dr Marcin Kaczmarek** is a Lecturer in Security Studies in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Glasgow, based in the Central and East European Studies subject area, focusing on Russia-China relations, Russia's foreign and security policy, comparative regionalism, and the role of rising powers in international politics. Marcin is the author of *Russia-China relations in the post-crisis international order* (Routledge 2015) and has published many articles in leading journals. He was a visiting scholar at the Chengchi University in Taiwan, the Slavic-Eurasian Research Centre in Japan, the Aleksanteri Institute in Finland, the Kennan Institute in Washington, DC, and the Shanghai International Studies University in China. Prior to joining the University of Glasgow, Marcin combined research and teaching at the University of Warsaw with policy-oriented analysis for the Finnish Institute of International Affairs in Helsinki and the Centre for Eastern Studies in Warsaw.

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



**Dr Matthew Sussex** is Senior Fellow at the Centre for Defence Research, Australian Defence College; and Associate Professor (Adjunct) at the Asia Institute, Griffith University. His research specialisations revolve around national security and strategic studies with a particular focus on Russia and Eurasia, great power politics, and information warfare. His books include *The Palgrave Handbook of National Security* (2021); *The Belt and Road Initiative and the Future of Regional Order* (Lexington, 2020); *Violence and the State* (Manchester University Press, 2017); *Power, Politics and Confrontation in Eurasia* (Palgrave, 2015); *Russia, Eurasia and the New Geopolitics of Energy* (Palgrave, 2015); and *Conflict in the Former USSR* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Matthew has previously been Associate Professor and Academic Director at the National Security College, ANU, and Head of Politics and International Relations at the University of Tasmania. He has been awarded research grants including from the Australian Research Council, the Fulbright Commission and the ISA. He has been a non-resident Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, a member of the National Executive of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, and Associate Editor of the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*. He also provides frequent analyses for media, including BBC, CNN and Bloomberg.



**Dr Elizabeth Buchanan** is an Australian polar geopolitics expert and Lecturer of Strategic Studies with Deakin University for the Defence and Strategic Studies Course (DSSC) at the Australian War College. Her research interests include Arctic and Antarctic geopolitics, energy security, Russian grand strategy, and strategic studies. Elizabeth is a Non-Resident Fellow at the Modern War Institute at West Point Military Academy, contributing to the U.S-Australian military dialogue focusing on polar geopolitics. She is also the inaugural Co-Director of the Modern War Institute's Polar Security Research Initiative - Project 6633, has been awarded an EU Parliament Commission grant to explore EU strategy in the Arctic and Antarctic regions and is the 2021-2022 Australian Parliament Fellow examining Antarctic geopolitics. Holding a Ph.D. in Russian Arctic strategy from the Australian National University, she has been the Visiting Maritime Fellow at the NATO Defence College, focusing on Arctic geopolitics, and Visiting Scholar with The Brookings Institution.



**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 27 October 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 AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).**

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

# Ethiopia's Tigray War

William Davison, International Crisis Group

Wednesday 3 November: 6pm-7pm AEDT **WEBINAR**

Ethiopia's Tigray region has been experiencing conflict since November 2020, with fighting between the dissident leaders of the regional administration, some of whom previously dominated Ethiopian politics for over 27 years in an authoritarian system, and the Ethiopian federal government, headed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.



When federal troops captured the Tigray capital of Mekelle in late November, in cooperation with Eritrean and Amhara regional forces, millions were forced out of their homes and thousands were killed. Since then, the war ground on until Tigray forces recaptured Mekelle in June. With the region once again cut off from vital services and aid flows, they went on the offensive into neighbouring Amhara and Afar regions to try and weaken enemy forces and recapture lost territory.

A humanitarian crisis that began in November is growing, with aid deliveries allegedly being blocked by the federal government, as famine closes in on Tigray.

What are the prospects for resolving this conflict? How is it affecting the wider region? What role can the United Nations play?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join William Davison from the International Crisis Group to discuss the complex emergency in Tigray and northern Ethiopia, the nature of the political dispute, and the motivations of the various actors involved in the war.



**William Davison** is the Senior Analyst for Ethiopia at the International Crisis Group. He was Bloomberg's Ethiopia correspondent from 2010 until 2017, and has been published in *The Guardian*, *Foreign Policy*, *Al Jazeera*, *Christian Science Monitor* and other international media. He founded Ethiopia Insight in 2018, which provides in-depth coverage of Ethiopian affairs. He stepped down as Managing Editor in March 2021.

**This event is online only. Registrations close on 3 November 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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Webinar: Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10.



## The CECA: Roadmaps for the Australia - India Economic Relationship

Dr Amitendu Palit, Ambassador Anil Wadhwa and Peter Varghese AO FAIIA with The Hon Lisa Singh

Tuesday 16 November: 6pm-7pm (AEDT), 12:30pm-1:30pm (IST).

Webinar

The India – Australia relationship is receiving increased attention this year as the geopolitics of the Indo – Pacific become more complicated. China's rising ambition to become the hegemonic power in Asia has altered Australia's economic and strategic position in the region, including increasing its reliance on the United States and the UK for its security through the AUKUS alliance, the expanding importance of the QUAD (India, Japan, the United States and Australia), and the ongoing fallout of the cancellation of the French Submarine deal.



This has brought to the fore Australia's relations with India, the other major power in the region, and a rethink of the trade and economic relations between the two countries, particularly regarding the **Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (AI-CECA)**. Along with a push to consider an early harvest agreement with India by year's end, the twin roadmaps set out by India and Australia towards greater trade and economic relations, are currently being reviewed.

In joint partnership with the **Australia India Institute (AII)**, AIIA Victoria invites you to join a panel of experts to explore these issues and the implications of these changes for the India – Australia relationship.

Moderated by the Hon Lisa Singh, CEO Australia India Institute, the panellists will be:



**Dr Amitendu Palit** is Senior Research Fellow and Research Lead (Trade and Economics) at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. He is an economist specializing in international trade and investment policies, FTAs, supply chains, connectivity, cross-border data flows and the Indian economy. He sits on the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Trade and Investment. He is Senior Research Fellow (Honorary) at the Wong Centre for Study of MNCs and Adviser for Athena Infonomics.



**Ambassador Anil Wadhwa** was a member of the Indian Foreign Service from 1979–2017 and has served as the Indian Ambassador to Italy, Thailand, Oman and Poland. As Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs of India he oversaw relations with South East Asia, Gulf and West Asia, Pacific and Australasia. He has served as the Indian Ambassador and permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD, WFP UNESCAP and worked with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague heading the Government Relations and Political Affairs and Media and Public Affairs Branches. He led a Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) task force for writing the Australia Economic Strategy report for the Indian government released by the Minister of Commerce, Industry & Textiles in November 2020. Ambassador Wadhwa is currently a Distinguished fellow with the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi.



**Peter Varghese AO FAIIA** is Chancellor of The University of Queensland (UQ). Prior to this appointment, he served as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2012-2016). Previous senior appointments included High Commissioner to India (2009-2012), High Commissioner to Malaysia (2000-2002), Director-General Office of National Assessments (2004-2009), and Senior Advisor (International) to the Prime Minister (2003-2004). Mr Varghese was the author of the India Economic Strategy to 2035 commissioned by the Australian Prime Minister submitted in July 2018. He is also Chair of the Asialink Council.



**The Hon Lisa Singh** is a former Australian Senator and was the first woman of South Asian heritage to be elected to the Australian Parliament. She is a former Tasmanian Member of Parliament and was a Minister in the Tasmanian Government. She is Deputy Chair of the Australia-India Council and an advisory council member of the University of Melbourne's Asialink and the University of New South Wales' Australian Human Rights Institute. In 2014 she was awarded the *Pravasi Bharatiya Samman* by the President of India for building friendly Australia-India relations, the highest civilian honour for a person of Indian origin. She recently commenced as the new CEO of the Australia India Institute.

[\*\*BOOK ONLINE HERE\*\*](#)

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## Young Professionals

# Virtual “Careers at the United Nations”

Tuesday 30 November 2021: 5.30pm–6:30pm AEDT Webinar

Interested in an international career and want to know how to get there? Excited by the prospect of working in international relations and diplomacy at the world’s main multilateral organisation?

Then look no further! After the success of AIIA Victoria’s “Careers in DFAT” we have decided to run another information webinar, **“Careers at the UN”**. The event provides an opportunity for graduates and young professionals to discuss the skill set and knowledge necessary to pursue a career working for the United Nations.



So, what are you waiting for? If you want to hear about the different pathways into the UN and learn from two experienced professionals, then get your ticket today and join us for “Careers at the UN”!

You will hear from our two presenters as they discuss their career path followed by Q&A where you will have the opportunity to ask questions to our speakers.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join this Young Professionals event with Ian Howie and Peter Bateman.



**Ian Howie** has spent more than 30 years working in the field of international development. Most of this time was spent with the United Nations as a career official and included multi-year assignments as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) representative in China (with responsibilities also for Mongolia and North Korea), Vietnam, Ghana, Rwanda and Papua New Guinea. He also spent seven years at UN Headquarters, New York, following his appointment as Director, Division of Human Resources. Earlier, he served as a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) managing primary health care projects in rural Bangladesh, in the plantation sector in Sri Lanka and in the industrial estates of Kenya and the slums of Nairobi.



**Peter Bateman** is an award-winning journalist, producer and communication specialist focusing on humanitarian issues and development. He is currently working with UNDP Asia-Pacific as production and communication specialist for the youth, peace, and governance team. He also consults for UN migration Thailand, supporting with communications in the team’s effort to eradicate human trafficking in Thailand and bordering countries.

**This event is online only. Registrations close on 30 November at 4pm, 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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# Public Diplomacy and the Communication of Foreign Policy: Sweden's Feminist Foreign Policy

Isabelle Karlsson, Lund University

Thursday 2 December: 6pm-7pm AEDT **WEBINAR**

Communication plays a significant role in making meaning of foreign policy, with public diplomacy representing a form of strategic communication. Through actively promoting certain values and interests, states can frame the external image of their foreign policy.

Sweden has used public diplomacy to advance its feminist foreign policy, established in 2014 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström (pictured). Shaped by its historical promotion of gender equality and human rights, the country has used this framing to advance its foreign policy ambitions, such as peace, security and sustainable development.



Examining how practitioners in Sweden's public diplomacy work with promoting the country's interests abroad and how they communicate the feminist foreign policy can provide insight into how public diplomacy functions and is utilised. Nonetheless, this foreign policy legacy cannot be taken for granted, and public diplomacy practitioners face several challenges when communicating the feminist foreign policy.

What is Sweden's feminist foreign policy about? What are the challenges and opportunities when communicating it?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Isabelle Karlsson to consider the role of strategic communication in diplomacy and to discuss the case of Sweden's feminist foreign policy.



**Isabelle Karlsson** is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Strategic Communication, Lund University, Sweden. Her doctoral research mainly concerns Sweden's public diplomacy and enactment of foreign policy discourses and narratives in the international arena. She is the 2021 recipient of the CPD Doctoral Dissertation Grant from the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy (CPD). Isabelle holds a M.Sc. in Strategic Communication from Lund University, and a B.A. in Communication Science and Sociology from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany. Prior to joining Lund University, she worked in journalism, corporate communications and brand management in Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Liechtenstein.

**This event is online only. Registrations close on 2 December 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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## **The Importance of International Trade for Australia's Security and Prosperity**

The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment  
in conversation with Richard Iron CMG OBE

**Tuesday 14 December: 4.30pm for 5pm-6pm AEDT Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne 3002**

China is Australia's largest trading partner, with two-way trade reaching a record \$252bn in 2019 and accounting for 27.4% of Australia's trade with the world. This year, tensions between the two countries have risen as China continues to impose trade restrictions on Australian-sourced imports.

According to Treasury estimates, sectors affected by Chinese trade restrictions lost AU\$5.4bn in exports to China during the first full year of sanctions, but by diversifying into other markets they simultaneously found AU\$4.4bn of new business elsewhere.



Australia continues to negotiate Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to support this diversification and to reduce and eliminate certain barriers to international trade and investment. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) is a regional FTA that will enter force on 1 January 2022 and build upon Australia's existing free trade agreements with 14 other Indo-Pacific countries. An Australia-UK FTA was agreed in principle in June 2021; an Australia-EU FTA is under negotiation, and the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with India is still being negotiated.

As the world starts to emerge from COVID, what are the prospects for the trade relationships between Australia, Asia, India and Europe? How might the current trade agreement architecture in the region change with a renewed Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join the Hon Dan Tehan MP in conversation with Richard Iron.



**The Hon Dan Tehan MP** is Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment and was sworn in on 22 December 2020. Mr Tehan served as Minister for Education from 28 August 2018. Prior to this, he was the Minister for Social Services, and preceding this, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister for Defence Personnel, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac. Mr Tehan was elected to Federal Parliament in 2010 and has held positions including as the Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security; Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Youth Mental Health, and Chair of the Coalition Friends of Tourism. Prior to entering Parliament, Mr Tehan worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade where he held various roles, including as a diplomat at the Australian Embassy in Mexico. Mr Tehan also worked at senior levels of the Howard Government, and as the Director of Trade Policy and International Affairs at the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr Tehan has Masters Degrees in International Relations and Foreign Affairs and Trade.

**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.

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

# The Biden Administration and Democracy Promotion: Challenges Abroad and at Home

Professor Bruce W. Jentleson, Duke University

Thursday 27 January 2022: **12pm-1pm AEDT**

**Webinar**

President Joe Biden has pledged to put “democracy back on the global agenda”. As part of this agenda Biden promised to host a ‘summit for democracy’ in the first year of his Presidency. On December 9-10, 2021, the summit was held virtually with members from government, civil society, and the private sector. Leaders from over 100 countries took part in the summits hosted by Washington, with an agenda to fight authoritarianism, challenge corruption and promote human rights.



Response to the event was mixed at best. Some criticising the White House’s hypocrisy for its moral high ground in a time when its own democracy is in peril. Others were unimpressed by the selection of countries invited. With the end of the summit some of the largest challenges remain ahead. The proposed “year of action” will come to tell whether commitments encouraged will be realised.

Has enough been done to turn the tide in the fight between Autocracy and Democracy? How are we likely to see agreements monitored and delivered? How true to democratic values is the US foreign policy record? Will America’s own democracy be undermined by its own domestic toxic partisanship?

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 currently is a Distinguished 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, including as Senior Advisor to the State Department Policy Planning Director in the Obama Administration. 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 was the long-time Co-Director and now Senior Advisor 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 forthcoming book is *Economic Sanctions: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford University Press, 2022).

**This event is online only. Registrations close on Thursday 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).**

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

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**Australian Institute  
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# What Holds Back Russia from Ukraine?

Assoc. Prof. Alexey D. Muraviev, Curtin University

Tuesday 8 February: 5.30pm – 6.30pm AEDT

Webinar

Months of building political-military tensions between Russia and Ukraine have spurred fears of Moscow launching a full-scale invasion.

A round of strategic consultations between Russia, the United States and Europe held between 10 and 13 January neither confirmed definitive rupture nor produced a solution to the ongoing security crisis.

The roots of this crisis can be traced along a history of growing tensions between Russia and Ukraine, which peaked in February 2014 when protests ousted Ukraine's President, Viktor Yanukovich. During this same period Russia annexed Crimea and supported separatist resistance in eastern Ukraine.



A subsequent strain on Russia's relationship with the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and escalating strategic tensions with the United States has ensued throughout the 2010s.

What is the current likelihood of an invasion? What is Putin's 'endgame'? How ready is Ukraine to respond to an offensive attack? What role does NATO play?

AIIA Victoria welcomes back Dr Alexey Muraviev for his insights and analysis.



**Dr Alexey D. Muraviev** is Associate Professor of National Security and Strategic Studies at Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia. He is the founder and Director of the Strategic Flashlight forum on national security and strategy at Curtin. Alexey is the former Head of Department of Social Sciences and Security Studies at Curtin. Between 2016 and 2021, Alexey was academic lead of Curtin defence strategic initiative. He was also a non-residential fellow at Sea Power

Centre Australia, Royal Australian Navy, and inaugural scholar-in residence, Australian Strategic Policy Institute. Alexey has published widely in the field of national security, strategic and defence studies. His research interests include problems of modern maritime power, contemporary defence and strategic policy, Russia as a Pacific power, transnational terrorism and Australian national security. Among his latest publications are Strategic Reality Check: The Current State and Prospects of Russia-China Deepening Defence Cooperation, *Australian Journal of Defence and Strategic Studies*, 3 (1), 2021; Alexey Muraviev, Dalbir Ahlawal, Lindsay Hughes, India's Security Dilemma: Engaging Big Powers while Retaining Strategic Autonomy, *International Politics*, 4 September 2021. He is a member of the International Editorial and Advisory Board, *The Australian Journal of Defence and Strategic Studies*, Australian Department of Defence, member of the Australian Member Committee, Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region (AU-CSCAP); member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London; National judge, Department of Defence Eureka Prize for Outstanding Science in Safeguarding Australia; member of the Advisory Board, Australia Public Network, and other organisations and think tanks. Alexey is regularly interviewed by national and international media, among them ABC TV and Radio, the Australian, Sydney Morning Herald, BBC World News and BBC Radio, Bloomberg, CNN, Fox News, TRT World, Channel News Asia, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and the Financial Times.

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## **Boris Johnson, 'Partygate' and Johnson-ism: the Political Logics of Brexit**

Dr Ben Wellings

Tuesday 15 February: 5pm for 5.30pm – 6.30pm at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Boris Johnson is a remarkable politician. His role in Brexit will mark him as one of the major British prime ministers of the 21st century.

Yet for all his political skill he is an electoral asset and liability rolled into one. He has survived near-death experiences - both metaphorical and literal - but the 'Partygate' scandal has led to calls for him to 'in the name of God, go'.

With ongoing police investigations threatening Johnson's leadership of the Conservative Party this moment in his political career allows us to ask if there is such a thing as Johnson-ism in British politics and foreign policy?



Ben Wellings will argue that as Prime Minister, Boris Johnson remains a product of Brexit, the political forces that he shaped when leaving the EU consequently shaped his time in office. Given the political logics that were laid down by Brexit the irony is that whatever the outcome of 'Partygate', the man who got Brexit done may ultimately be undone by Brexit.



***Dr Ben Wellings** is Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations. He is an expert on Brexit and the politics of nationalism and Euroscepticism in contemporary Europe. Ben Wellings comments regularly on Brexit, English nationalism, Euroscepticism and the politics of the European Union. Before joining Monash University in 2013 he was the Convenor of European Studies at the Australian National University from 2004. His publications include *English Nationalism and Euroscepticism: Losing the Peace* (Oxford: Peter Lang Ltd, 2012) and *English Nationalism, Brexit and the Anglosphere* (Manchester University Press, May 2019).*

This event is open all (please note that to comply with VIC Public Health Orders, all in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid exemption). It will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registration for in-person attendees will open at 5pm on Tuesday 15. Refreshments provided. The event will commence promptly at 5.30pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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## ***Meet the Ambassador – Japan***

HE Mr YAMAGAMI Shingo, Ambassador of Japan to Australia

Monday 21 February: 5pm for 5.30pm-6.30pm AEDT

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

The Australia and Japan relationship is one of Australia's closest and oldest in Asia and is fundamental to both states' strategic and economic interests.

For many years Australia's largest trading partner, Japan remains Australia's second-largest export market and a major source of investment. Both countries have deep economic roots in the Indo-Pacific and have worked closely together to further economic cooperation in the region.



The establishment of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) in 2007 has become a cornerstone security dialogue between Australia, Japan, the United States, and India. Most recently, the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) between Australia and Japan has further solidified the two countries' commitments to further elevating bilateral security and defence cooperation.

How does the changing balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region affect the bilateral relationship between Australia and Japan? How does the new RAA defence deal open new opportunities for closer cooperation between Australia and Japan?

In the next instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series, AIIA Victoria invites you to join His Excellency Mr YAMAGAMI Shingo in conversation with former foreign correspondent Jim Middleton.



***His Excellency Mr YAMAGAMI Shingo*** has been the Ambassador of Japan to Australia since December 2020. Prior positions include Director-General of the Economic Affairs Bureau and Intelligence and Analysis Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan respectively. Ambassador Yamagami has served in diplomatic postings to Washington, D.C., Hong Kong, Geneva and London. He was once seconded to the National Police Agency as Director of Police Administration of Ibaraki Prefectural Police. Ambassador Yamagami has a Bachelor of Law from the University of Tokyo, and studied at Columbia University.



*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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## ***Meet the Ambassador – Singapore***

HE Mr Kwok Fook Seng, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore

**Tuesday 22 February: 4.30pm for 5pm-6pm AEDT    Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002**

Australia and Singapore have a strong and substantive relationship underpinned by the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) signed in 2015. Ties span the domains of trade, defence, science and innovation, arts and culture, educational links, and the digital economy. Both sides enjoy regular high-level dialogue, anchored by annual Leaders' Summits, 3+3 Ministerial meetings and Public Service Roundtables. Australia is a key strategic partner for Singapore, given the close economic linkages, long-standing military cooperation, and collaboration in bold pathfinding projects such as the Digital Economy Agreement and a Green Economy Agreement.



Singapore and Australia have worked together to tackle the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been close collaboration on contact tracing technologies, supply chain connectivity, mutual vaccine swaps, and the safe resumption of international travel.

What opportunities for closer cooperation and growth are there in a post-COVID environment? How can Australia and Singapore best meet evolving challenges in the Indo-Pacific region?

In the next instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series, AIIA Victoria invites you to join His Excellency Mr Kwok Fook Seng in conversation with former foreign correspondent Jim Middleton.



***HE Mr Kwok Fook Seng*** is currently Singapore's High Commissioner to Australia. Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1995, Mr Kwok has served in portfolios related to South Asia and Latin America, the United Nations, and Southeast Asia. At the Singapore Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from 1997 to 2000, he covered the UN's Second and Fifth Committees. From 2002 to 2006, he worked on international arbitration cases at the International Tribunal for Law of the Sea and the International Court of Justice. Mr Kwok was Deputy High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur from 2006 and Director-General of the ASEAN-Singapore National Secretariat from 2009. From 2011 to 2014, he was Singapore's Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva. As Ambassador for Climate Change from 2014 to 2016, he worked on the Paris Agreement at the 21st Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015. Mr Kwok has a Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies (Honours) from Murdoch University, Western Australia, a Master of Public Management (MPM) from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and an Honorary Doctorate of the University conferred by Murdoch University in 2020.

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**Australian Institute  
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# Young Professionals Networking Drinks

Wednesday 23 February: 6pm – 8pm at The Kelvin Club, 14-30 Melbourne Place, Melbourne 3000



AIIA VIC warmly welcomes you to our first Young Professionals Networking Drinks for 2022.

## **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!**

(Please note that to comply with VIC Public Health Orders, all in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid exemption).

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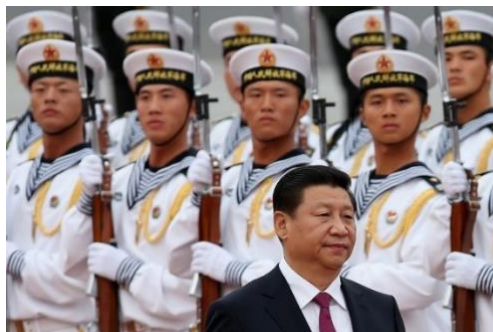
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# Is China a Military Threat to Australia?

Sam Roggeveen, Lowy Institute

Wednesday 2 March: 5:30pm for 6pm – 7pm at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

China's growth as a military power is undeniably dramatic. China already has the second most powerful navy in the Pacific and is developing the capability to match America's maritime strength in the region. Its focus on developing a large ocean-going surface fleet indicates its growing ambitions.



In Australia, it is broadly assumed that the threat to our interests and even our continent has risen just as dramatically. This in turn drives calls for higher defence spending and closer ties to the US.

So, what exactly is the Chinese military threat to Australia? Do we really need to raise our defence capability?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Sam Roggeveen to discuss this critical question.



**Sam Roggeveen** is Director of the Lowy Institute's International Security Program. Before joining the Lowy Institute, Sam was a senior strategic analyst in Australia's peak intelligence agency, the Office of National Assessments, where his work dealt mainly with North Asian strategic affairs, including nuclear strategy and Asian military forces. Sam also worked on arms control policy in Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs, and as an analyst in the Defence Intelligence Organisation. Sam has a long-standing interest in politics and political philosophy, and in 2019 he wrote [Our Very Own Brexit: Australia's Hollow Politics and Where it Could Lead Us](#), about the hollowing out of Western democracy and its implications for Australia. Sam writes for newspapers and magazines in Australia and around the world and is a regular commentator on the Lowy Institute's digital magazine, *The Interpreter*, of which he was the founding editor from 2007 to 2014. Sam is also Director of Digital at the Lowy Institute, and editor of the *Lowy Institute Papers*.

This event is open all (please note that to comply with VIC Public Health Orders, all in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid exemption). It will also be streamed online via Zoom. Refreshments provided. Registrations close Wednesday 2 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 promptly at 6.00pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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# Australia's Sanctions on Russia

Stefan Romaniw OAM and Petr Kuzmin

Tuesday 8 March: 5pm for 5.30pm – 6.30pm AEDT at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Deeply concerned at Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine, a gross violation of international law and the United Nations Charter, Australia has joined other western nations to impose sanctions on Russia that focus on persons, financial actors, and technological capabilities.

Travel bans and financial sanctions have been imposed on eight individuals on Russia's national security council, including President Vladimir Putin and Foreign minister Sergei Lavrov. Broader sanctions will be extended to the separatist Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, targeting transport, energy, telecommunications, oil, gas and mineral reserves, as well as several Russian banks.

Australia will also work with NATO and other partners to provide lethal as well as non-lethal military equipment, medical supplies, and financial assistance to support the people of Ukraine.

What is the overall goal of the sanctions? What sanctions has Australia imposed so far, and what effect have they had? Are these sanctions enough? What further sanctions or other help for Ukraine can Australia deliver? And what is the human cost of these sanctions not only for ordinary Russians but also Ukrainians who live in Russia or have relatives there? [Should sanctions be balanced with incentives for Russia](#)

to stop the war, broker peace and reparations with Ukraine directly via bilateral negotiations, and commit fully to implementing a proper democracy?



AIIA Victoria invites you to join a panel discussion with Stefan Romaniw and Petr Kuzmin.



**Stefan Romaniw** OAM is the First Vice President of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) and Co-Chair of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO). He currently holds the position of Executive Director of Community Languages Australia. He has served terms as Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission under both Governments in Victoria. He has a teaching qualification and, prior to moving into senior government positions and senior management, worked in a range of school settings. He has also served as Chairman of the Victorian Government's Australia Day Committee (Victoria).



**Petr Kuzmin** is the President of Svoboda Alliance VIC and one of the leaders of a grassroots pro-democracy movement Svoboda Alliance AU&NZ that sprang up organically in Australia and New Zealand in the wake of protests that swept Russia in 2021 upon Alexei Navalny's return and arrest. This movement has adopted a strong anti-war stance and is conducting ongoing solidarity rallies to emphasise strong cultural and human links between the people of Ukraine and Russia.

[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

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**This a free event, but pre-registration is essential.**

# ***Good International Citizenship: The Case for Decency***

## **Gareth Evans**

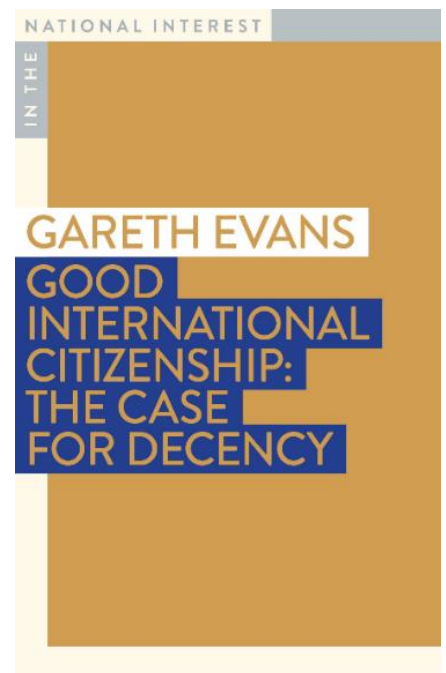
Thursday 10 March: 5pm for 5.30pm-6.30pm AEDT Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne 3002

Why should Australians care about poverty, human rights atrocities, environmental catastrophes, weapons proliferation or any other problems afflicting faraway countries, when they don't have any direct or immediate economic or security impact on us?

In [\*Good International Citizenship: The Case for Decency\*](#) (Monash University Publishing, 1 March 2022) Gareth Evans argues that to care about these issues – to be, and be seen to be, a good international citizen – is both a moral imperative and a matter of hard-headed national interest.

He examines the four key benchmarks in assessing a country's record as a good international citizen: its foreign aid generosity; its response to human rights violations; its reaction to conflict, mass atrocities, and refugee flows in their aftermath; and its contribution to addressing the global existential threats posed by climate change, pandemics and nuclear war – and finds Australia's record in recent years embarrassingly poor.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Gareth Evans for a robust and enlightening discussion.



(Copies of the book will be available for sale and for signing on the night).



***Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA FAIIA*** was a cabinet minister throughout the Hawke–Keating governments, including as Foreign Minister from 1988 to 1996. After leaving politics, he was President of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group from 2000 to 2009, and Chancellor of the Australian National University from 2010 to 2019, where he is now Distinguished Honorary Professor.

This event is open all (please note that to comply with VIC Public Health Orders, all in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid exemption). It will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registration for in-person attendees will open at 5pm on Tuesday 10 March. Refreshments provided. The event will commence promptly at 5.30pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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## AIIA VIC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

# Graduate Application Tips and Tricks Evening

Wednesday 16 March: 6pm – 8pm at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

AIIA VIC Young Professionals warmly welcome you to our Graduate Application Tips and Tricks evening.

Are you interested in an international career and want to know how to get there?

Looking for tips for your graduate application and want to ask questions in person?

Then look no further, this event is designed to give you an edge in building your professional and international career opportunities!



Join the following representatives for an evening of questions and helpful tips for the application and interview process:

**Victorian Public Service: Georgia Collins-Jennings.** Georgia is a Senior Policy Adviser in the Economic Development and International Engagement branch of the Victorian Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet. Georgia joined the Victorian Public Service as a graduate in 2019, working in various policy and project officer roles across the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR), the Department of Education and Training (DET) and the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). Since joining the International Engagement team at DPC, Georgia has had the opportunity to work on initiatives to support the Victorian Government's international strategies with key regional partners.

**Deloitte Australia: Janine Sijercic, *Workforce Transformation Senior Consultant - Human Capital, Deloitte Consultant.*** Janine joined Deloitte's Human Capital team in 2019 as a Graduate within their Technology Transformation division before moving into the Workforce Transformation team. Janine works within the Workforce Analytics, Strategy & Planning team, specialising in designing workforce strategies using people data and industry trends. Janine loves exploring how the Future of Work is rapidly changing how organisations manage their people, particularly for the Victorian Public Sector and Higher Education industries.

**DFAT Victoria State Office: Alex Manahan and Elyse Moore.** (Bio details to follow).

[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

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AIIA Young Professionals members free / Non-members \$10

Light refreshments served





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# Gender, War and Militarism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Dr. Sara Meger

Thursday 17 March: 5pm for 5.30pm – 6.30pm AEDT at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

For decades, feminist scholars have been pointing out the ways in which global politics and international security are gendered. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, however, our security priorities have shifted and new threats to national and international security have emerged. Gender plays a critical role at the individual, national and international level.



Growing recognition of the role of misogyny as a driver for violent extremism to the motivations and impacts of contemporary conflicts, gender considerations have to be taken seriously in order to understand and address security challenges today. Examples of domestic and international extremism, foreign fighters, and the armed conflicts in Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Colombia address questions regarding the role of militarism and masculinity in the construction of identities at the individual level, the way in which militarist masculinity shapes policy preferences of leaders at the national level, and how gender considerations shape international priorities around global security.

How might a gender analysis help us better understand the causes and consequences of contemporary security challenges?

In marking *International Women's Day* AIIA Victoria welcomes Sara Meger for her thoughts and analysis.



**Dr Sara Meger** is a Lecturer in International Relations in the School of Social and Political Sciences. She joined the School in August 2017, where she teaches international security and gender in international relations. She holds both a Master's (2008) and PhD (2012) in International Relations from the University of Melbourne. Her previous employment has included the positions of: Assistant Professor in Gender Studies at Central European University, Research and Teaching Associate at Monash University, and Sessional Lecturer at the University of Melbourne and Deakin University. Her research interests lie at the nexus of international security and global political economy and has featured in *International Studies Quarterly*, *The International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Globalizations*, and *Postcolonial Studies*. Her book, *Rape Loot Pillage: The Political Economy of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict*, is available from Oxford University Press.

This event is open all (please note that to comply with VIC Public Health Orders, all in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid exemption). It will also be streamed online via Zoom. Refreshments provided. The event will commence promptly at 5.30pm AEDT (Melbourne time, UTC+11).

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## The 14<sup>th</sup> Sir Zelman Cowen Oration and Dinner

Thursday 24 March 2022 6:30pm-10:30pm at The Australian Club, 110 William Street, Melbourne

AIIA Victoria warmly invites you to a convivial evening at the Australian Club. Come and meet old and new friends, mingle with diplomats and members of the international community in Melbourne, and continue the tradition of acknowledging the contribution of Sir Zelman Cowen.

Former Governor-General and legal expert Sir Zelman Cowen dedicated his life to engaging the Australian public in international affairs. To honour this commitment, AIIA Victoria's annual Sir Zelman Cowen Oration features an eminent speaker discussing a current issue that affects how Australia engages with the world.

AIIA Victoria is delighted to announce the 14<sup>th</sup> Sir Zelman Cowen Oration will be delivered by:

### **Dr Alan Finkel AC**

Special Adviser to the Australian Government on Low Emissions Technology

**'Getting to Zero – Pathways, Policies and Partnerships'**

**Predinner drinks** commence in the Ellis Rowan Room from **6:30pm**, followed by a **3-course dinner** in the Main Dining Room **7:20pm-10:15pm**.



***Dr Alan Finkel AC** commenced as Special Advisor to the Australian Government on Low Emissions Technology in December 2020. Prior to this, he served as Australia's Chief Scientist, President of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering and for eight years as Chancellor of Monash University. Dr Alan Finkel AO was appointed as Chair of the Expert Advisory Panel for the CSIRO Report on Climate and Disaster Resilience in January 2020 and was appointed as Chair of the Technology Investment Roadmap Ministerial Reference Group in February 2020. Dr Finkel led the development of the 2019 National Hydrogen Strategy and in October 2020 led a review of the systems and operations in all states and territories for effective COVID-19 testing, tracing and management.*

**AIIA VIC Members & Guests \$150 | Non-members \$175 | Tables of 10 \$1,500**  
Business attire | Please book [online](#) or by calling 03 9654 7271 by **10 March 2022**

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## ***Meet the Ambassador – Malaysia***

HE Dato' Roslan Abdul Rahman, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Australia

**Tuesday 29 March: 5 pm for 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm AEDT**  
**Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002**

Australia and Malaysia have a long-standing relationship built on a shared history, strong economic and strategic ties.

Both Australia and Malaysia prosper from free and open trade in the Indo-Pacific region. Malaysia is Australia's second-largest trading partner in ASEAN and 8th largest trading partner overall. Malaysian-Australian trade covers a diverse array of sectors ranging from raw materials to healthcare, education and defence.



The establishment of the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in January 2021 has paved the way for greater economic, social, technological and defence cooperation, as both nations seek to support COVID-19 recovery, economic growth and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

How does the changing balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region affect the bilateral relationship between Australia and Malaysia? What opportunities does the CSP open for greater cooperation between Australia and Malaysia?

In the next instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series, AIIA Victoria invites you to join HE Dato' Roslan Abdul Rahman in conversation with former foreign correspondent Jim Middleton.



*In a diplomatic career covering almost 30 years, **His Excellency Dato' Roslan Abdul Rahman** has travelled extensively and served at various Malaysian Diplomatic posts in almost all continents. Starting his public service career as a teacher, he later joined the Civil Service and the Foreign Ministry in 1995 and had stints overseas in New York, Bangkok, Aceh, Guangzhou, Baku, Havana and Canberra. At the Foreign Ministry, he served in many capacities from the Southeast Asia Division, Multilateral, Political Affairs, and Finance and Accounts Division.*

*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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# The Causes, Courses and Consequences of War in Europe

David Kilcullen in conversation with Richard Iron CMG OBE

Thursday 31 March: 4.45pm for 5.15-6.15pm AEDT at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Russia's invasion of Ukraine represents not just an unwarranted attack on the borders of a sovereign nation in contravention of international law, but an egregious assault on the global rules-based international order.



Putin sees a divided Europe, more concerned about losing access to Russian gas supplies, and a polarised America weary of foreign wars and weakened by the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan. Beijing, while not necessarily agreeing with Putin's tactics, sees an opportunity for authoritarian states to band together against the Western democracies.

If Putin's military aggression succeeds, and the retaliatory sanctions arrayed against Moscow offer only limited punishment, the consequences will be far-reaching; economic coercion, major power intimidation and military adventurism will intensify. This is a critical moment for Western liberal democracies.

AIIA Victoria invites you to a unique opportunity to join internationally acclaimed expert on guerrilla warfare, terrorism, and the future of conflict, Dr David Kilcullen.



**Dr David Kilcullen FRGS** 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. David 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. David Kilcullen was named one of the Foreign Policy Top 100 Global Thinkers in 2009. He is the author of *The Accidental Guerrilla*; *Counterinsurgency*; *Out of the Mountains*; *Blood Year: Islamic State and the Failures of the War on Terror*; *The Dragons and the Snakes: How the Rest learned to Fight the West*; and most recently, *The Ledger* (Hurst, December 2021).

**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*.

## [BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

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**Australian Institute  
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*Victoria*

## **Young Professionals Networking Drinks**

**Tuesday 5 April: 6pm – 8pm at The Kelvin Club, 14-30 Melbourne Place, Melbourne 3000**



After the success of our Young Professionals Networking Drinks in February, AIIA VIC has decided to hold another for April.

**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!**

(Please note that to comply with VIC Public Health Orders, all in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid exemption).

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



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# Navigating Gendered Games in Global Politics

Dr Jacqui True FASSA FAIIA

Thursday 7 April: 5pm for 5.30pm – 6.30pm AEST at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Australian International Relations scholars and students have an important role to play in theorising change and envisioning post-COVID-19 futures.

Viewing global politics through the lens of gendered games can open up new understandings as well as new opportunities. These 'games' manifest in the performances of hypermasculine and proto-feminist leaders and nations, heightened inter-state and global contestation.



Inclusive and diverse political leadership is needed to navigate these games to bring about a more just and stable world order.

What gendered inequalities and structures inhibit women's representation in IR, an historically masculine field? How can Australian IR scholarship contribute to needed change within IR?

In 2021 Dr Jacqui True was recognised as a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. At this Fellow's Address Jacqui will be presented with her Fellow's Award by Dr Bryce Wakefield the national executive director of AIIA.

AIIA Victoria welcomes AIIA Fellow Dr Jacqui True for her insights and analysis.



**Jacqui True, FASSA, FAIIA** is Professor of International Relations and Director of Monash University's Centre for Gender, Peace and Security. She is also a Global Fellow, Peace Research Institute (PRIO), Oslo and received her PhD from York University, Canada, and an honorary doctorate from Lund University, Sweden in 2018. Her research is focused on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, violence against women, and the gender dimensions of foreign policy and international relations. Her book, *The Political Economy of Violence Against Women* (Oxford, 2012) won the American Political Science Association's 2012 biennial prize for the best book in human rights, among other prizes. Recently she published *Violence against Women: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford, 2020). and with Sara E. Davies *The Oxford Handbook of Women, Peace and Security* (2019). In 2021 Professor True was named one of the 100 most influential Persons in Gender Policy – for the gender-based violence area.

This event is open all (please note that to comply with VIC Public Health Orders, all in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid exemption). It will also be streamed online via Zoom. Refreshments provided. The event will commence promptly at 5.30pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+1)).

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## ***Reflections on a United Nations' Career***

**Prof. Ian Howie with Tony Walker AM FAIIA**

**Tuesday 12 April: 5pm for 5.30pm – 6.30pm AEST at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne**

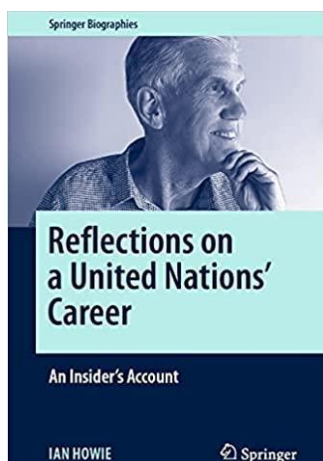
As one of the world's largest multilateral organisations and a beacon for social change and the betterment of humankind, a career with the United Nations is often highly sought-after, especially among those with desires to drive positive social change.

In [\*Reflections on a United Nations' Career\*](#), Ian Howie offers more than an autobiographical account of the career of a young graduate from Melbourne who spent his life working as a United Nations official. The book is a critical, indispensable debriefing of a UN insider's account as it follows navigating the rewards, costs, coping with transitions, corruption and poverty, all while 'trying to make a difference'.



Sharing insights from his assignments as the United Nations Population Fund's representative in China negotiating the 'one-child policy'; in North Korea during the 1994 Famine and the death of Kim il Sung; and in the aftermath of the Rwandan Genocide, Ian Howie recounts pivotal moments including evacuating UNFPA staff from the Daily News Building during the 9/11 attacks, and attending a breakfast in honour of President Kennedy the morning of his assassination.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Ian Howie in conversation with Tony Walker for first-hand insights into the realities of a UN career official's life. Books will be available for sale and for signing.



***Ian Howie***, Associate Professor, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne, and Adjunct Professor, RMIT University, Melbourne, has spent more than 35 years working in the field of international development. The bulk of this time was spent with the United Nations as a career official. Reproductive rights were integral to these appointments, especially when negotiating government policies. Professor Howie also spent seven years at UN Headquarters, New York, following his appointment as the Chief of the Division of Human Resources. Earlier, he served as Chief Technical Adviser with the International Labour Organisation managing primary healthcare projects in rural Bangladesh and, following his plotting of a unique model delivering health services at village level, oversaw its adoption in the plantation sector in Sri Lanka, and in the industrial estates of Kenya and the slums of Nairobi.

**[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)**

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# Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria

**Tony Walker AM FAIIA** is a vice chancellor's fellow at La Trobe University. In 2022 he was awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the media as a journalist and to the community. He is a columnist for *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. He is a dual Walkley Award winner for commentary, and recipient of the Paul Lyneham Award for Excellence in Press Gallery Journalism. He is a former foreign correspondent for *Fairfax* and the *Financial Times* in China, the Middle East and North America. Publications include *Arafat: The Biography* and *The Peter Thomson Five*. Mr Walker is presently a board member at both *The Conversation* and the *CEW Bean Foundation*. He was made a Fellow of the AIIA in 2013.



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## **Democracy and Political Instability in West Africa**

**Dr Muhammad Dan Suleiman**

Tuesday 19 April: 5.30pm – 6.30pm AEST **Webinar**

On 24 January 2022, a successful coup in Burkina Faso became the latest in a familiar playbook of political instability in West Africa. Since 2010, there have been over 40 attempted and successful coups in Africa, some 22 occurring in West Africa and the Sahel region. Since 2019, the region has witnessed seven, five successful (in Mali, Chad, Guinea, and Burkina Faso) and two failed (in Niger and Guinea Bissau).



These developments defy the expectations of the 'third wave' of democratisation which swept across Africa at the end of the Cold War. Like cases of political instability in the past, recent phenomena of violence, political unrest and military takeovers of government have been fuelled by internal factors emanating from challenges of national government including governance deficits, political elites competing for power, and frustrated masses resisting oppressive regimes; and external factors including the involvement of foreign powers seeking to extend their strategic influence.

Scores of analysts, researchers and policy makers characterise these recent events as demonstrative of "democratic backsliding" and coups "returning". Yet, more questions remain: Did democracy make a forward move in the first place, and are the underlying conditions that fuel coups resolved? Are these coups an indictment of neoliberal democracy in Africa, or is democracy itself a victim of broader questions of insecurity? What does instability in the sub-region mean for Australian interests there? In what ways could the situation be addressed? AIIV Victoria invites you to join Dr Muhammad Dan Suleiman for an assessment of recent political events in West Africa.



**Dr Muhammad Dan Suleiman** is a Research Fellow at the Africa Research & Engagement Centre, and the Centre for Muslim States and Societies of the University of Western Australia, Perth. As an academic and analyst, he has produced several political and media commentaries, and his extensive publications on politics, international relations, and Islamism in West Africa appear in journals such as *African Security*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Peace and Conflict Studies*, *Peace Review*, *The Australasian Review of African Studies*, *African Review of Social Science Methodology* and *African Identities*. In 2018, his article "What Makes Islamist Movements Different? A Study of Liberia's NPFL and Nigeria's Boko Haram in West Africa" (*Terrorism and Political Violence*) received the Khalifa Al-Falasi Prize in Muslim Studies. Muhammad's forthcoming works include "The spatial production of an 'ungoverned' and fragmented Libya" (book chapter with Debora V. Malito, Michigan University Press), and his forthcoming book (Routledge) which interrogates the politics of "knowing" (and "unknowing") in the representation of Islamist movements in West Africa. He is a Fellow of the United Nations' Fellowship Program for People of African Descent, and 2016 Australian Commonwealth Parliamentary Library Summer Scholar.

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# France and the Blue Pacific

Nic Maclellan

Thursday 21 April: 5pm for 5.30pm – 6.30pm AEST at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

The strategic partnership between Australia and France has been damaged by the AUKUS announcement in September 2021. In a newly released version of France's official Indo-Pacific strategy, the strategic partnership with Australia has undergone "re-evaluation", downgraded to bilateral cooperation "on a case-by-case basis."



Despite this strategic setback, France is ramping up its activities in the Pacific Islands, seeking to reinforce its colonial presence in New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna. In collaboration with the European Union – which released its own Indo-Pacific policy in September 2021 – France is seeking to extend its role through regional organisations like the Pacific Community (SPC).

Beyond arms sales to partners in India and ASEAN, the oceans are a core focus of France's Indo-Pacific policy. Under his 'France 2030' industrial policy, French President Emmanuel Macron has announced billions of euros in research funding – with new initiatives around the exploration and potential exploitation of seabed minerals and strategic metals from the deep ocean. With France claiming control of 7 million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone in the Pacific, this focus on the Blue Economy is a new frontier for French colonialism in the 21st Century.

With France and Australia both moving to elections in coming weeks, what is the future of the France/Australia strategic partnership? How do France's strategic, economic, and commercial interests clash with regional campaigns for environmental management of maritime resources?



**Nic Maclellan** is a correspondent for *Islands Business* magazine (Fiji) and other regional media. He has written widely about French policy in the Pacific and is co-author of *La France dans le Pacifique – de Bougainville à Moruroa* (Editions La Découverte, Paris) and *After Moruroa – France in the South Pacific* (Ocean Press, New York, and Melbourne).

This event is open all (please note that to comply with VIC Public Health Orders, all in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid exemption).

It will also be streamed online via Zoom. Refreshments provided. The event will commence promptly at 5.30pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).

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## ***Meet the Ambassador – Norway***

HE Mr Paul Gulleik Larsen, Ambassador of Norway to Australia, in conversation with Jim Middleton.

Wednesday 27 April: 5 pm for 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm AEST at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Despite their immense geographical separation, Norway and Australia share a long-standing commitment to the rules-based international order, good governance, sustainable development and open trade.

Norway and Australia cooperate closely in multilateral fora and work together to advance international peace and security. Sharing a border with Russia on the strategically important Kola Peninsula and the Barents Sea, Norway has played an important role in NATO and is currently serving on the UN Security Council for the 2021-2022 term. Norway is also a key player in renewable and non-renewable energy exports to Europe.



How has the Russian invasion of Ukraine altered Northern European security? What are its implications for NATO? How will it affect the European energy market and transition to renewable energy? What role does Norway have to play?

In the next instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series, AIIA Victoria invites you to join HE, Mr Paul Gulleik Larsen, in conversation with former foreign correspondent Jim Middleton.



**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 a diplomatic advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister of Norway from 1998-1999, and as Chief of Staff and Director at the UN World Food Program (WFP) in Rome from 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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*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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## ***"Cadre Country - How China became the Chinese Communist Party"***

**Professor John Fitzgerald with Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA**

**Thursday 28 April: 5pm for 5.30pm – 6.30pm AEST at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne**

Since the founding of the Communist Party in China just over a century ago, there is much the country has achieved. But who does the heavy lifting in China? And who walks away with the spoils?

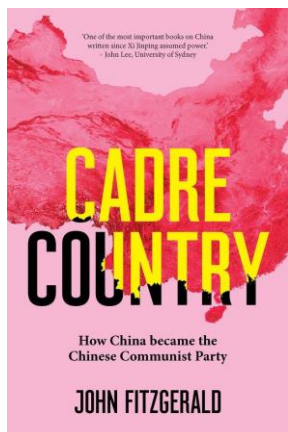
*Cadre Country* (UNSW Press, February 2022) places the spotlight on the nation's 40 million cadres – the managers and government officials employed by the ruling Communist Party to protect its great enterprise.



This group has captured the culture and wealth of China, excluding the voices of the common citizens of this powerful and diverse country.

AIIA Victoria invites you to join John Fitzgerald as he focuses on the stories the Communist Party tells about itself, exploring how China works as an authoritarian state and revealing Beijing's monumental propaganda productions as a fragile edifice built on questionable assumptions.

Books will be available for sale and for signing.



**Professor John Fitzgerald** is Emeritus Professor at Swinburne University of Technology where he headed the Asia-Pacific philanthropy studies program from 2013 to 2017. 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 other books include *Taking the Low Road: China's influence in Australian States and Territories* (2022) and *Big White Lie: Chinese Australians in White Australia* (2007).

**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.

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# **Sri Lanka Crisis: Causes and Consequences**

**Ms. Bhavani Fonseka, Mr. Anushka Wijesinha, and Dr. Samanthi Gunawardana, moderated by Mr. Prakash Mirchandani**

**Tuesday 10 May: 5.30pm – 6.30pm AEST Webinar**

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, and major ports on vital shipping lanes, Sri Lanka today is considered a strategic partner for countries in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Once the "poster-child" for high social welfare and the most open economy in South Asia, the country is now in deep economic trouble, exacerbated by the drop in tourism, declining remittances from expat workers, excessive borrowings, and poor fiscal and monetary policy choices.



This has resulted in unprecedented shortages of essentials, fuel, and power and has led to a mass peoples movement calling for the resignation of the President and his Government that shows no sign of abating.

How did this dire economic situation arise? Is there a way out of the political crisis? How will this influence geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific? How badly will the economy and social welfare be further impacted by the spillover effects of the conflict in Ukraine on tourism and energy costs?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join a discussion on this unfolding situation with Ms. Bhavani Fonseka, Mr. Anushka Wijesinha and Dr. Samanthi Gunawardana, moderated by Mr. Prakash Mirchandani.

**Ms. Bhavani Fonseka** is Senior Researcher with the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) in Colombo. She has over 15 years of work experience as a constitutional and human rights lawyer in Sri Lanka. She has researched and published on human rights, reconciliation, minority rights, humanitarian and rule of law issues. Involved in national and international advocacy related to human rights, reconciliation, justice and reforms.

**Mr. Anushka Wijesinha** is an expert in economic research, policy advisory, strategy formulation whose expertise ranges across trade, competitiveness, private sector development, and innovation. He is currently working on assignments in Yangon, Male, Geneva and Colombo. He is also Co-Founder of Centre for a Smart Future and Former Curator, World Economic Forum Global Shapers Colombo Hub.

**Dr. Samanthi Gunawardana** is a Senior Lecturer in Gender and Development and the Director of the Master of International Development Practice at Monash University. A member of the Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre. Samanthi's research examines the impact of development policy on employment systems, labour, and livelihoods among rural women in South Asia, with a particular emphasis on gender, development and labour in Sri Lanka.

**Mr. Prakash Mirchandani** has many years of business experience in Sri Lanka and the USA and currently runs a boutique international trade and marketing strategy practice (with a focus on South Asia) in Melbourne. He holds an MA in International Affairs from the Fletcher School at Tufts University (USA) and is a Council Member of AIIA (Victoria).

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## ***Meet the Ambassador – European Union***

HE Dr Michael Pulch, Ambassador of the European Union

Thursday 12 May 2022: 5pm for 5:30-6:30pm AEST Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has posed many challenges to the European Union. With the security situation deteriorating, many member-states have increased defence spending whilst also sending military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

While the EU continues to impose sanctions on Russia, efforts have been complicated by Europe's dependence on Russian energy. Russia is the EU's largest natural gas, crude oil, and coal provider, with some member-states almost completely dependent on Russian energy.



How will the EU meet its immediate energy needs while maintaining a commitment to decarbonisation and decoupling Russian energy imports? How has the crisis impacted EU solidarity?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join HE Dr Michael Pulch and John Richardson for the latest instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series.



***His Excellency Dr Michael Pulch*** is the European Union Ambassador to Australia, following his term as EU Ambassador to Singapore. Before that Dr Pulch headed the Russia Division in the European Foreign Service in Brussels, where he coordinated EU policies on Russia. Previously, he was posted to Beijing as Deputy Chief of Mission of the EU Delegation to China and to Tokyo. Dr Pulch entered the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1986, serving at the German Embassies in Seoul and Washington.

***John Richardson*** is Vice President of AIIA Victoria and served as Ambassador to Brazil from 2016 to 2018. Previously Mr Richardson was DFAT State Director Victoria, having served overseas as Ambassador to Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, and as Deputy Head of Mission in Australia's Embassies in Germany and Thailand. In Canberra, Mr Richardson served as Assistant Secretary of the Canada and Latin America Branch; the APEC Taskforce; the Diplomatic Security Branch; the North-East Asia Branch; and the Trade Strategy Branch. His early career focussed on Australia-Japan relations.



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



# Energy Policy and Politics in Europe

Thursday 12 May: 12pm-2pm AEST

**RMIT University, Council Chamber, Building 1, 124 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, 3000 (and live-streamed)**

For more than two decades, the European Union (EU) has been at the forefront of global renewable energy deployment. In celebrating *Europe Day* we reflect on how as a united entity Europe is positioned to strengthen its position in the global energy market.



Today, a lack of coherent energy security and economic policy has limited the possibility of EU countries establishing an interconnected energy market able to better withstand possible supply disruptions. Reducing reliance on energy imports and diversification of energy supplies demonstrates a possibility to drive growth and jobs.

The possibility of a future fuelled by hydrogen has stirred much interest. The European Hydrogen Strategy formed part of the European Green Deal and represents aspirations of widespread hydrogen use by 2050. European energy security must be considered within the context of climate and energy transition in order to avoid backtracking on policy designed to make the EU's economy environmentally sustainable.

How can a transition to clean energy faster reduce the EU's gas dependency on Russia? In what ways can energy security strengthen the EU as an international actor?

You are invited to a panel discussion co-hosted by the EU Delegation to Australia, RMIT University, the European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ) and the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) Victoria.

- **HE Dr Michael Pulch**, EU Ambassador to Australia.
- **HE Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault**, Ambassador of France.
- **Ms Prune Bokobza**, Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Specialist.

***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.*

***His Excellency Jean-Pierre Thébault** is the Ambassador of France to Australia, following his previous term as Ambassador for the preparation of France's G7 Presidency. He is a graduate of the Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris and the École Nationale d'Administration. After graduation he joined the Financial and Economics Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1988-1991). A career diplomat, serving various missions including - Ambassador for the preparation of France's G7 Presidency, 2018-2019; Ambassador in Ireland, 2014-2018; Ambassador for the Environment, 2010-2014; Consul General in Hong Kong, 2005-2009; Deputy Head of*

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

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



*Mission in Tokyo, 2002-2005. He was awarded the Knight of the Legion of Honor in 2014, and the Officer of the National Order of Merit in 2019.*

**Ms Prune Bokobza** is a graduate from the Political Institute in Paris. Before moving to Melbourne in April, she was working on decarbonated energy public policies for the CEA research and innovation center at the Embassy of France in Japan. In Australia, her work aims at developing the FR/AUS cooperation in the fields of hydrogen and renewable energy by facilitating connections between relevant stakeholders and fostering collaborations on production and supply chain development projects. Pru is also involved in the "La French Tech Australia" community on GreenTech related topics.

Moderated by Dr. Emma Shortis. **Dr Emma Shortis** is a nationally recognised expert in the history and politics of the United States, and a research fellow at RMIT University. Emma also co-hosts RMIT's popular history podcast, *Barely Gettin' By*. She writes regularly for mainstream media including ABC News Online and the Sydney Morning Herald. Before joining RMIT, Emma spent a year in the United States as the Fox-Zucker International Fellow at Yale University, where she finished writing her PhD in History. In 2020, she was named RMIT's Media Commentator of the year.

Welcome remarks by Associate Professor **Gosia Klatt**, Associate Dean (Graduate Research), University of Melbourne, and Vice-President of the European Studies Association Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ).

#### PROGRAM:

- 1200pm: Registrations open**
- 12:15pm: Panel Discussion**
- 1pm: Audience Q&A**
- 1.15pm: Buffet lunch and networking**
- 2pm: Event Concludes**

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of International Affairs**  
*Victoria*

# **The Philippines Election: The Fall and Rise of the Marcos Family**

**Ms. Andrea Chloe Wong**

**Thursday 26 May: 12.00pm – 1.00pm AEST Webinar**

36 years after the People Power Revolution restored democracy in the Philippines, a member of what has been described as, one of the most brutal and corrupt political dynasties in the nation was elected on 9 May in the Presidential elections.

Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr. seemingly triumphed in the elections, winning 60 percent of the electorate, and making a remarkable comeback from the human rights abuses and alleged theft of almost \$10 billion from the country his family was once best known for. The political stronghold the Marcos family has maintained in prominent political offices confirms the impunity that reigns in the Philippines for elites.



While the election was, by most accounts, free and fair, accusations of defective machines, vote-buying and pre-marked ballots were posted on social media. The outcome of the elections further cements the dynastic element of Philippines politics, whereby personalities and ancestry are more influential compared to political manifestos.

How did Marcos Jr. manage to come back? What are his priorities? How will the election affect Philippine foreign policy? What does this mean for democracy in the Philippines?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Andrea Chloe Wong as she discusses the outcome of the Philippines elections, and what this means for the state's democracy, citizens, and regional security.



***Andrea Chloe Wong's*** expertise is on political and security issues in the Philippines and Asia. She completed her PhD in Political Science at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. She has a Master of Arts in Asian Studies at the University of the Philippines and a Masters in International Affairs at the Australian National University. She is also one of the non-resident WSD Handa Fellow for the Pacific Forum CSIS. She formerly worked as a Senior Foreign Affairs Research Specialist at the Foreign Service Institute Philippines. She also served as Senior Lecturer at Miriam College in the Philippines. and writes commentaries and analysis on Philippines politics and international relations.

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# **The Challenges of the Indo-Pacific: What Awaits the Next Australian Government?**

Ms. Emma Connors, Prof. Ian Hall and The Hon. Lisa Singh,  
moderated by Richard Iron CMG OBE

Wednesday 1 June 5:00pm – 7:00pm (AEST), 12:30pm – 2:30pm (IST)  
Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne VIC 3002

Accounting for 60 percent of global maritime trade and the world's largest share of GDP, the Indo-Pacific has emerged as a region of strategic importance for Australia and its partners, particularly India.

With similar concerns about the sharpening ambition of China, as well as converging views regarding the regional strategic landscape, Australia and India have forged an important strategic partnership in ensuring the security and prosperity of the region. Their mutual membership of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) amongst other "minilateral" groups illustrates this partnership well.



However, recent world events such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict and China's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific has created instability in the region. These issues will need to be urgently addressed by the incoming government as they have long term implications for Australia and India's relationship as well as Australia's wider role in the Indo-Pacific.

What will be the political and economic fallout from the ongoing war in Ukraine? How does India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict impact its relationship with Australia and the QUAD? How is the security of the Indo-Pacific impacted by the rise and assertiveness of China? How can Australia better engage with its ASEAN neighbours, particularly Indonesia?

AIIA Victoria and AII invite you to join a discussion with Ms Emma Connors, Prof Ian Hall and The Hon Lisa Singh.

This event is in partnership with the **Australia India Institute** and **DFAT Victoria State Office**.

***Emma Connors** has three decades experience in journalism. She has worked at The Australian Financial Review for 20 years in total and spent two years in an editorial role at the Sydney-based think tank, the Lowy Institute. At the Financial Review Emma has reported on economics, health, technology, national politics and geopolitical issues and written across the paper and sister publications including The AFR Magazine. Emma was appointed South-east Asia Correspondent for*

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*the Financial Review in October 2019. She spent six months in Jakarta before moving to Singapore in April 2021.*

***Ian Hall*** is a professor in International Relations at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia and is the Deputy Director (Research) of the Griffith Asia Institute. He is also an academic fellow at the Australia-India Institute at the University of Melbourne and is Co-Editor of the AIIA's Australian Journal of International Affairs. His latest book *Modi and the Reinvention of Indian Foreign Policy* (Bristol University Press) was published in 2019.

***The Hon. Lisa Singh*** is the CEO of the Australia-India Institute, deputy chair of the Australia-India Council, an Asialink board member and a 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.

**This event is open to all and will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Wednesday 1 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 at 5:00pm AEST (Melbourne time, UTC+10).**

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## ***Meet the Ambassador – Brazil***

HE Mr Mauricio Carvalho Lyrio, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil  
in conversation with John Richardson

Wednesday 8 June, 5.30pm for 6pm – 7pm AEST at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

2022 marks 77 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Brazil, but the trade relationship stretches back to 1787! As the two largest countries and economies south of the equator, Australia and Brazil play a significant role in global affairs.



Today, Australia's engagement with Brazil covers trade and investment, resources and energy, education-related services, agriculture and water management, research and innovation, and people-to-people links. Australia and Brazil cooperate on a range of issues of mutual interest such as agricultural trade reform through the Cairns Group and the WTO. Brazil is also currently serving on the UN Security Council for the 2022-2023 term.

As both countries grapple with the economic impact of COVID-19, what opportunities are there for greater cooperation between Australia and Brazil? How do the two countries navigate the resurgence of great power politics in international affairs? And how does Brazil's membership of the BRICS influence its position?

In the next instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series, AIIA Victoria invites you to join HE Ambassador Mauricio Lyrio in conversation with Mr John Richardson.



***HE Mr Mauricio Carvalho Lyrio*** is a career diplomat and has served at the Brazilian Embassies in Washington (1999-2002), Buenos Aires (2002-2005) and Beijing (2011-2013). He was the Brazilian Ambassador to Mexico between February 2018 and September 2021. In Brasilia, he was Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2008 to 2010, Secretary of Diplomatic Planning from 2013 to 2016 and Chief of Staff to the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2016 to 2017. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Communication (1989) and a Master's Degree in International Relations (1994) from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio). In addition to his diplomatic career, Mr Lyrio has held the position of professor at the Department of Social Communications at PUC-Rio (1992) and as a professor of "International Relations Theory" (1995-1998) and "Diplomatic Planning" (2014-2017) at Instituto Rio

*Branco, the Brazilian diplomatic academy. In 2010, he published the book The rise of China as a power: internal political foundations and has also authored several articles on the relations between Brazil and Argentina; the dispute over pharmaceutical patents between Brazil and the United States; and the Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations. He is the author of the novels Memoria da Pedra (2013) and O immortal (2018).*

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**John Richardson** is Vice President of AIIA Victoria and served as Ambassador to Brazil from 2016 to 2018. Previously Mr Richardson was DFAT State Director Victoria, having served overseas as Ambassador to Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, and as Deputy Head of Mission in Australia's Embassies in Germany and Thailand. In Canberra, Mr Richardson served as Assistant Secretary of the Canada and Latin America Branch; the APEC Taskforce; the Diplomatic Security Branch; the North-East Asia Branch; and the Trade Strategy Branch. His early career focused on Australia-Japan relations.

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## The Future of Australian Covert Action

Dr William A. Stoltz in conversation with Richard Iron CMG OBE

Wednesday 15 June: 5.30pm for 6-7pm at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Covert action is the most unexamined component of Australia's international statecraft, not least because alongside espionage it is part of the highly classified work of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS).



For the past 20 years Australia's approach has been calibrated to disrupt threats, often undertaken in support of otherwise declared military operations, including counter-terrorism, interference with people smuggling, and the recovery of hostages. This focus on disruption has meant that so-called 'special operations' and 'offensive cyber operations' have dominated Australia's recent covert action.

Today however Australia faces the most important strategic inflection point in its approach to covert action since ASIS was first created, 70 years ago. It faces a more difficult international environment, with precipitous great power competition close to home and high expectations that it will aid in allied efforts to shape its region. It is for the task of meeting these expectations and advancing its own vision for the region that the utility of covert action must be re-evaluated as a tool of Australian statecraft.

What has been Australia's approach to covert action historically? How does it need to change, and what policy measures could achieve this evolution? What are some of the ethical and strategic challenges covert action presents?

In this the 70th anniversary year of the establishment of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service, AIIA Victoria invites you to a unique opportunity to join Dr William A. Stoltz to analyse the most unexamined component of Australia's international statecraft.



**Dr William A. Stoltz** is the Policy Director at the ANU National Security College. He is a Visiting Fellow at the Robert Menzies Institute at the University of Melbourne, and an Associate Member of the Centre for the Study of Subversion, Unconventional Interventions and Terrorism (SUIT) at the University of Nottingham. He has previously worked across Australia's defence, intelligence, and law enforcement communities. He holds a PhD and Advanced Masters of National Security Policy from The Australian National University as well as a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne.



**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.

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**Please note that this event will be held under the Chatham House Rule and is in-person only.**

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## ***Meet the Ambassador – Lithuania***

HE Mr Darius Degutis, Ambassador of Lithuania to Australia  
in conversation with John Richardson

**Monday 20 June: 5 pm for 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm AEST at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne**

Sharing a border with the strategically important Russian territory of Kaliningrad, Lithuania as a NATO member has assumed greater geopolitical significance since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. And as a member of the European Union, Lithuania's increasingly strained relationship with China also provides an important litmus test for EU-China relations.



A country of 2.8 million in the Baltic region, Lithuania recently drew Beijing's ire after breaking with diplomatic custom by agreeing that Taiwan's office in its capital Vilnius would bear the name 'Taiwan' instead of 'Taipei'. In response, China downgraded its diplomatic relationship with Lithuania, forcing Vilnius to repatriate its diplomats from China, and implemented an effective trade embargo against Lithuanian goods.

Although clearly not a party to the dispute, Australia has requested to be included in the WTO's consultation process, since it too has been a target of China's attempts at economic coercion. Lithuania's first embassy in the 31-year history of bilateral ties opened in Canberra in February 2022.

How has the Russian invasion of Ukraine altered European security? What role does Lithuania have to play? How should nations such as Lithuania and Australia cooperate on strategic challenges, and stand up to economic coercion from China?

In the next instalment of our *Meet the Ambassador* series, AIIA Victoria invites you to join HE Mr Darius Degutis in conversation with former foreign correspondent Jim Middleton.



**HE Mr Darius Degutis** is a career diplomat and has served at Lithuanian Embassies in Tel Aviv (2009-2014), Warsaw (2001-2004), Washington (1998-2001) and Copenhagen (1992-1995). He has also held numerous assignments in Lithuanian diplomatic service, including Special Envoy for Energy Security (2017), Ambassador at Large for External Economic Relations (2014-2016) and Director of the NATO Foreign Ministers Summit in Lithuania (2004-2005). He has also held a variety of teaching positions at Vilnius ISM University of Management and Economics and Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University covering public diplomacy, diplomatic protocol and negotiation management. He holds qualifications from Harvard Kennedy School, European Security and Defence College, and the University of Oxford. He is fluent in English, Polish, Russian and German, and has an array of experience in the fields of international security, energy policy, middle eastern affairs and public diplomacy.

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**John Richardson** is Vice President of AIIA Victoria and served as Ambassador to Brazil from 2016 to 2018. Previously Mr Richardson was DFAT State Director Victoria, having served overseas as Ambassador to Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, and as Deputy Head of Mission in Australia's Embassies in Germany and Thailand. In Canberra, Mr Richardson served as Assistant Secretary of the Canada and Latin America Branch; the APEC Taskforce; the Diplomatic Security Branch; the North-East Asia Branch; and the Trade Strategy Branch. His early career focused on Australia-Japan relations.

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# Bangladesh's Growing Prosperity - Implications for Australian Trade, Investment and Security

H.E. Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, Dr. David Brewster, Dr. Lailufar Yasmin and Mr. Mohammad Chowdhury, moderated by Dr. Mike Moignard

**Tuesday 21 June 5:00pm for 5.30pm - 6:30pm (AEST) 1:30pm - 2:30pm (BST)**  
**Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne VIC 3002**

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Bangladesh. During that time, Bangladesh has transformed itself from the global poster-child of poverty into an emerging middle power in Asia. Its economy is outpacing many of its neighbours, including India, Pakistan and Myanmar. Bangladesh's meteoric rise creates significant economic and strategic opportunities for itself and Australia.



To Bangladesh, Australia presents significant trade and investment opportunities in ready-made garments, Liquid Natural Gas (LNG), agriculture and food. To Australia, Bangladesh serves as a strong entry point into the South Asian markets, as it begins to expand beyond East Asia due to growing tensions with China. Cooperation between the two countries will also be essential to address common concerns and shared security interests on matters such as climate change, maritime security, terrorism and transnational crime.

Bangladesh has been seeking to maintain a balance and strategic neutrality among competing groupings in a fast-changing geo-strategic landscape in the Indian Ocean region. A pacific, neutral and middle economic power Bangladesh could be a potential partner of other middle power countries in the region to safeguard stability and promote rules based regional order.

How can Bangladesh and Australia improve their strategic relationship? How will the recently signed Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) impact two-way trade and investment between Australia and Bangladesh? And how can Bangladesh and Australia work together to ensure a peaceful and prosperous Indian Ocean region?

In partnership with the Bangladesh High Commission and DFAT Victoria State Office, AIIA Victoria invites you to join a keynote address from H.E. Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, followed by a panel discussion with Dr. David Brewster, Dr. Lailufar Yasmin and Mr. Mohammad Chowdhury. The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Mike Moignard.

***H.E. Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman is the High Commissioner for the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. As a career diplomat with over 30 years'***

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experience, H.E. Mr. Mohammah Sufiur Rahman has held numerous positions including High Commissioner to Myanmar from 2014-2017 and High Commissioner to Sri Lanka from 2012-2014. He has served as Deputy High Commissioner at Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad from 2008-2009, as Director at the SAARC Secretariat from 2004-2007 and Counsellor at the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva from 1999-2002.

**Dr. David Brewster** is a senior research fellow at the National Security College, Australian National University, where his research primarily focuses on strategic affairs in South Asia and the Indian Ocean. In 2019, Dr. Brewster released a major report, [Australia's Second Sea: Facing our Multipolar Future in the Indian Ocean](#), which proposes a new roadmap for Australia's strategic engagement in the Indian Ocean.

**Dr. Lailufar Yasmin** is a Professor at the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She has been a recipient of the US Fulbright, the British Chevening, and the Australian International Post-Graduate Research Scholarship (IPRS). Her areas of research include Bangladesh's politics, economy and foreign policy, South Asian Affairs, China's Rise, maritime security and the Indo-Pacific Region, and women's participation in UN Peacekeeping.

**Mr. Mohammad Chowdhury** is a Partner at PwC Australia and a member of the firm's global Telecom, Media and Technology leadership team and has previously held senior roles at Vodafone Group and IBM. He has lived and worked in Bangladesh, including advising on telecom sector reforms as well as the Prime Minister's Office in digitisation. He is passionate about inclusion and his book, *Border Crossings: My Journey as a Western Muslim*, was published in 2021.

**Dr. Mike Moignard** is a Council Member of the AIIA Victoria. He is an Adjunct Research Fellow at La Trobe University, and an Academic Fellow with the Australia India Institute.

**This event is open to all and will also be streamed online via Zoom. Registrations close on Tuesday 21 June at 2.30pm 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).**

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# Food (In)Security

Professor Alexander Gillespie, University of Waikato NZ

Monday 27 June: 5.30-6.30 AEST **Webinar**

Russia's invasion and blockade of Ukraine will have ramifications on food security far beyond the immediate warzone.

Housing some of the most crucial ports for the global food economy, restricted access to the Sea of Azov poses significant challenges for civilian welfare. Forecasts of global food insecurity warrant concerns of mass starvation, as approximately 26 countries rely on predominantly Ukraine and/or Russia for grain supplies.



The global food crisis has already contributed to social instability and a risky geopolitical climate, inciting widespread civil unrest. The increasing price of exports has exacerbated disparities between poorer and wealthier households, demonstrating the numerous humanitarian concerns that have arisen from the ongoing war. Unfortunately, the complete ramifications of global food insecurity are yet to be witnessed.

How bad is global food insecurity? How has Russia's invasion of Ukraine worsened the situation? What are the ramifications of food insecurity on political and social stability? How are governments likely to cope? What laws and international rules protect civilians experiencing the collateral damage of Russia's invasion?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Alexander Gillespie as he focuses on the current global food crisis, its links to Russia's blockade and being on the edge of a global famine.



**Professor Alexander Gillespie** obtained his LLB and LLM degrees with Honours from The University of Auckland. He did his PhD at Nottingham and post-doctoral studies at Columbia University in New York City. His areas of scholarship pertain to international and comparative environmental law; the laws of war; civil liberties; and several pressing issues of social concern. Alexander has published seventeen books. His most recent work is Volume IV of his Causes of War (1650-1800) series which was published in 2021 by Bloomsbury/Hart in Oxford, UK. He has also written over forty academic articles. Alexander has been awarded a Rotary International Scholarship, a Fulbright Fellowship, a residency at the Rockefeller Bellagio Centre in Italy, and the New Zealand Law Foundation International Research Fellowship. He was the recipient of a Francqui Foundation award with which he held a professorship at Ghent University, Belgium, for six months during 2018/2019. In 2021 he was the joint winner of the Critic and Conscience of Society Award.

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