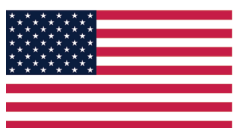


# U.S.-AUSTRALIA ALLIANCE

ALLIANCE NETWORK PERTH

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
TUESDAY 30 MARCH 2021



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA

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# WELCOME

## **AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR THIS NATION ACROSS DEFENCE, SECURITY, GEOPOLITICS, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, TRADE AND INVESTMENT.**

United States investment in Australia surpasses that of China, and serves as the nation's leading economic partner in multiple dimensions. While this has been the case throughout the alliance, changes to strategic and economic policies in the United States means our nation faces much uncertainty, revealing challenges as well as opportunities moving forward.

2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty, signed in San Francisco in 1951. The alliance remains the foundation of defence and security between the two countries, providing Australia with access to leading defence hardware and technologies.

In a time when the public are questioning long-standing institutions and their relevance, a recent poll by the Lowy Institute indicates a remarkable level of support for Australia's security alliance with the United States, with 72% of Australians considering the alliance 'very' or 'fairly' important for the nation's security. This level of public support should not pave the way for complacency, and it is imperative for both countries to continue to nurture the alliance, as it finds a place in today's challenging global environment.

The Alliance Network, supported by the Embassy of the United States of America and the UWA Defence and Security Institute, is designed to bring together influential leaders currently specialising in regional security, economics or public policy to discuss the state of the relationship and to explore new areas of knowledge.

We look forward to a thought-provoking discussion drawing on current alliance issues and the future of this important relationship.

The University of Western Australia and Griffith University would like to acknowledge the funding provided by the United States Government that underpins these Alliance Network Workshops.



**PROFESSOR PETER J. DEAN**  
Chair of Defence Studies  
Director, UWA Defence  
and Security Institute

# PROGRAM

**TUESDAY 30 MARCH 2021**

**Formal Dining Room, The University Club of Western Australia**

TIME	SESSION
8.30–9.00	TEA AND COFFEE ON ARRIVAL
9.00–9.10	<b>INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</b> Professor Peter Dean, Director, UWA Defence and Security Institute
9.10–9.20	<b>FRAMING REMARKS</b> Professor Stephen Smith, Chair, UWA Defence and Security Institute
9.20–10.05	<b>SESSION 1</b> <b>GEOSTRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT</b> Key speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr Bec Strating, Senior Lecturer, Politics, La Trobe University</li><li>• Professor Benjamin Reilly, School of Social Sciences, Discipline of Political Science and International Relations, The University of Western Australia</li></ul>
10.05–10.30	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
10.30–11.15	<b>SESSION 2</b> <b>IMPLICATIONS OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION</b> Key speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr Jennifer Hunt, Lecturer in Security Studies, Macquarie University and Research Associate, United States Studies Centre, The University of Sydney</li><li>• Professor Gordon Flake, Chief Executive Officer, Perth USAsia Centre</li></ul>
11.15–11.30	<b>BREAK</b>
11.30–12.15	<b>SESSION 3</b> <b>TRADE, ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS</b> Key speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr Jeffrey Wilson, Research Director, Perth USAsia Centre</li><li>• Mr Andrew Friars, Senior Partner and Vice-President Telecoms, Media, Energy and Utilities Sector Leader for Australia and New Zealand, Managing Partner for Western Australia, IBM</li></ul>
12.15–12.40	<b>BREAK</b>
12.40–13.25	<b>SESSION 4 - WORKING LUNCH</b> <b>AUSTRALIAN DOMESTIC CONSIDERATION FOR THE ANZUS ALLIANCE</b> Key speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms Hayley Channer, Senior Policy Fellow, Perth USAsia Centre</li><li>• Professor Peter Dean, Director, UWA Defence and Security Institute</li></ul>
13.25–14.00	<b>FINAL AND CLOSING REMARKS</b> Professor Peter Dean, Director, UWA Defence and Security Institute
14.00–14.30	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>

## SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS

1. **MR VICTOR ABRAMOWICZ**, Sessional Academic, School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry, Curtin University
2. **MS HAYLEY CHANNER**, Senior Policy Fellow, Perth USAsia Centre
3. **MR KRIS CONSTANTINIDES**, Chair and President, AIDN-WA
4. **PROFESSOR PETER DEAN**, Director, UWA Defence & Security Institute
5. **DR ANDREW DOWSE AO**, Director, Defence Research and Engagement, Edith Cowan University
6. **AIR COMMODORE FIONA DOWSE AM CSC**, Senior Military Officer in Western Australia, Australian Defence Force
7. **MS SUZI ELHAFEZ**, PhD Candidate, The University of Western Australia
8. **PROFESSOR GORDON FLAKE**, Chief Executive Officer, Perth USAsia Centre
9. **DR SHANNON FORD**, Lecturer, Curtin University
10. **MR ANDREW FRIARS**, Senior Partner and Vice-President Telecoms, Media, Energy and Utilities Sector Leader for Australia and New Zealand, Managing Partner for Western Australia, IBM
11. **DR JENNIFER HUNT**, Lecturer in National Security, Australian National University
12. **THE HON. DAVID JOHNSTON**, Australian Defence Export Advocate, Australian Defence Export Office
13. **MR TROY LEE-BROWN**, PhD Candidate - International Relations, School of Social Sciences, The University of Western Australia
14. **MS BONNIE LIN**, Managing Director, RAINMAKERS GLOBAL
15. **DR GABRIELE MALUGA**, German Honorary Consul in Perth
16. **MR MATT MORAN**, Executive Director, Defence West
17. **PROFESSOR BENJAMIN REILLY**, Political Science and International Relations, The University of Western Australia
18. **MS NATALIE SAMBHI**, Executive Director and Founder, Verve Research
19. **PROFESSOR STEPHEN SMITH**, Chair, UWA Defence and Security Institute
20. **DR BEC STRATING**, Senior Lecturer, Politics, La Trobe University
21. **DR JEFFREY WILSON**, Research Director, Perth USAsia Centre

# SPEAKER AND PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES



## MR VICTOR ABRAMOWICZ

SESSIONAL ACADEMIC,  
SCHOOL OF MEDIA, CREATIVE ARTS AND SOCIAL INQUIRY,  
CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Victor Abramowicz is a PhD candidate and sessional academic at Curtin University, specialising in defence policy and strategy, military technology, security relations in East Asia and Eastern Europe, and military history. He is also the Principal of Ostoya Consulting, which provides advisory and business development services to a range of companies in the defence sector.

Victor has published opinion pieces in *The Interpreter* which have been noted internationally, and provided commentary on security issues in publications including *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

Victor started his career with 13 years in the Australian Department of Defence in a range of intelligence, strategic and international policy and capability development areas. His qualifications include an honours degree in Political Science from The University of Western Australia and a master's degree in Strategy and Policy from the University of New South Wales.

## MS HAYLEY CHANNER

SENIOR POLICY FELLOW,  
PERTH USASIA CENTRE,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Ms Hayley Channer is the Senior Policy Fellow at the Perth USAsia Centre. Based in Canberra, Hayley produces analysis on foreign and defence policy in the Indo-Pacific, engages with key Australian Government agencies and other policy stakeholders, and builds and sustains the centre's domestic and international network.

Hayley has led a diverse career across government, think tanks and the not-for-profit sector. She previously worked for the Department of Defence producing strategic policy guidance on defence capabilities and international engagement with the United States and Japan. Hayley has published strategic policy analysis on Northeast Asia and US policy in the Indo-Pacific for the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, and been a Visiting Fellow with the East West Centre in Washington DC. She has also spent time as an Assistant Adviser to former Minister for Defence, Senator Marise Payne, and led government relations for Australia's largest non-profit organisation, World Vision.

In 2019 Hayley was selected to participate in the US State Department's prestigious International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and she is an Australia-America Young Leadership Dialogue (AAYLD) Alumni. Hayley is currently under consideration for a 2021/22 Fulbright Scholarship.

Hayley has a Master of International Relations from the University of Queensland and a Certificate in Public Policy from the London School of Economics. Hayley is active across the Canberra community having co-founded the Women in Defence and Security Network (WDSN), contributed to the Australia-Japan Youth Dialogue, and volunteered with the RSPCA ACT.





**MR KRIS CONSTANTINIDES**  
**CHAIR AND PRESIDENT,**  
**AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY & DEFENCE NETWORK WA (AIDN WA)**

Kris has been with Airflite since he graduated with a w in 2003. In 2016 Kris became a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and in 2018 completed his Masters of Business Administration (MBA).

Kris' duties stretch across a variety of business areas, predominantly focused on strategy, business development, risk, contracts and general management.

Kris' journey at Airflite has included roles as Project Administrator, Project Manager and Business Development Manager, prior to becoming General Manager.

Kris is also a Chairperson of the Australian Industry Defence Network in Western Australia (AIDN-WA), which seeks to promote the interests of the local Defence industry. In 2021 Kris commenced writing a defence column for *Business News*

in Western Australia. Kris has represented the Aviation and Defence industries as a keynote speaker at events for universities, government bodies, industry groups and conferences both in Australia and internationally, on a broad range of topics.

**PROFESSOR PETER J. DEAN**  
**DIRECTOR,**  
**UWA DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTE,**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Professor Peter J. Dean is Chair of Defence Studies, Director of the UWA Defence and Security Program, and a Senior Fellow at the Perth USAsia Centre. Prior to the commencement of this role, Professor Dean was Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) at UWA. He has been a Fulbright Professional Fellow and Endeavour Research Scholar in Australia-United States Alliance Studies, as well as a non-resident Fellow with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Studies at Georgetown University in Washington DC.

Professor Dean was the founding editor of the Melbourne University Press Defence Studies Series, is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Australian Army Journal*, *Global War Studies* and the *Military Studies Journal*, and a former managing editor of the journal *Security Challenges*. An international award-winning author, his most recent book (with Brendan Taylor and Stephan Frühling) is *After American Primacy: Imagining the Future of Australia's Defence* (Melbourne University Press, 2019).





**DR ANDREW DOWSE AO**  
**DIRECTOR, DEFENCE RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT,**  
**EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY**

Andrew Dowse served as an electronic engineer with the Royal Australian Air Force over a 37-year career in areas such as air defence, IT, communications and electronic warfare. His senior appointments included oversight of defence capability planning, air force strategy and his final posting as the defence strategic J6. Andrew retired from active military service at the rank of Air Vice-Marshal in early 2018 and now works at Edith Cowan University, where he is the Director of Defence Research and head of the Information Warfare research program. He currently is chief investigator on three research grants, as well as a member on five other projects. He is the Chair of the Advisory Board for Sapien Cyber, is on the Divisional Council of RAAFA WA, and the founder of Adstra Consulting.

**AIR COMMODORE FIONA DOWSE AM CSC**  
**SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA,**  
**AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE**

Air Commodore Fiona Dowse joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1976. As a junior officer Air Commodore Dowse held various unit appointments managing civilian contractors, providing aviation maintenance services to the Royal Australian Air Force and cargo and passenger air movements, and working on large, complex exercise deployments supporting joint exercises.

Air Commodore Dowse has served as Staff Officer and was the Chief of Staff at Joint Movements Group, Headquarters Australian Theatre (now Joint Operations Centre). She has held a number of positions in logistics management and international engagement in Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom, including a deployment to the Middle East as part of an investigation team.

Air Commodore Dowse was chosen as the inaugural Director of International Engagement – Air Force. On promotion to Air Commodore in November 2019, Air Commodore Dowse took up her current position as Senior Officer Western Australia. Air Commodore Dowse was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross in recognition of her work during the deployment of forces to East Timor, a United States Meritorious Service Medal for her work on the deployment of Implantation Forces to Bosnia, and was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia.







**MS SUZI ELHAFEZ**  
**PHD CANDIDATE,**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Suzi is a near-completion doctoral researcher at the University of Melbourne. She has more than five years of academic research and teaching experience, spanning disciplines, regions and institutions. Her research is concerned with democratisation and the Arab polity and examines the impact of law/policy, governance and education in creating viable platforms for sustainable socio-political Arab futurism. Her research has been represented internationally at academic conferences and symposia in Australia, the Middle East and Europe on topics ranging from educational leadership, the golden age of the Arab-Islamic Empire, to the status of the female body in Arab-Islamic political environments. She has eight years' experience across Australian-Arab relations advisory and has created lasting international professional networks. Further, she has worked with seminal institutions in Australia including the University of Melbourne, UWA, the Egyptian Embassy in Canberra, and the Australian Arab Institute of Strategic Affairs.

In addition, her professional activities in the Middle East include being an advisory to members of the Egyptian Cabinet, Ministry of Emigration, Ministry of Higher Education, and the British University in Egypt and she was a visiting Scholar at the American University in Cairo in 2018. Suzi has also worked with members of Australian Federal Parliament and Victorian Parliament on pertinent issues across Australian-Arab relations, including mutually beneficial political and economic synergies across trade relations, education and defence, and has been recognised by the Egyptian Embassy in Canberra. Suzi founded the Institute for Advanced Policy in 2018 to enable research generation across critical regional issues as a pathway towards policy reform in the Arab region.

**PROFESSOR GORDON FLAKE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,**  
**PERTH USASIA CENTRE,**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Professor Gordon Flake is the founding CEO of the Perth USAsia Centre at The University of Western Australia. Having built an internationally recognised profile over 25 years of think-tank expertise and leadership in Washington DC, Professor Flake relocated to Perth in 2014 to establish the centre, and to build a broader world-class Indo-Pacific strategic community. Before joining the USAsia Centre, he was the Executive Director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, a Senior Fellow and Associate Director of the Program on Conflict Resolution at The Atlantic Council of the United States, and prior to that, Director for Research and Academic Affairs at the Korea Economic Institute of America.



Professor Flake is one of Australia's leading authorities on the Indo-Pacific, with a particular specialisation on Korea, having spent nearly three decades focused on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia. He has edited several volumes and authored numerous chapters on developments in the region.



**DR SHANNON FORD**  
**LECTURER,**  
**CURTIN UNIVERSITY**

Dr Shannon Brandt Ford is a lecturer in International Relations at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia. He is also a Board Member for the Asia-Pacific International Society of Military Ethics and a faculty affiliate with the program on Cybersecurity and Internet Governance at Indiana University. Previously, Dr Ford completed a Visiting Fellowship at the University of New South Wales, Canberra on the political, ethical and legal dilemmas of emerging weapon technologies. He has also been a Research Fellow with the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics.

Before embarking on an academic career, Dr Ford worked in the Strategic Policy Division at the Australian Department of Defence where he coordinated strategy planning work with the U.S. Department of Defense. Before that, he was an analyst with the Defence Intelligence Organisation specialising in North Asian security issues. Routledge recently published his chapter 'The Evolution of the US-Australia Strategic Relationship' in *The Future of the United States-Australia Alliance* (2021).

**MR ANDREW FRIARS**  
**SENIOR PARTNER AND VICE-PRESIDENT**  
**TELECOMS, MEDIA, ENERGY AND UTILITIES SECTOR LEADER FOR**  
**AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND,**  
**MANAGING PARTNER FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA, IBM**

Andrew leads the Telco, Media, Energy and Utilities Sector Leader for IBM ANZ and is also the Managing Partner for IBM Western Australian across all services. He is responsible for working with clients and client teams to create shared value in solving IBM's client's important strategic challenges.

Andrew has worked extensively as a management consultant for over 30 years leading and operating multi-country professional services businesses. The teams Andrew has led have implemented a wide range of strategies for clients and transformed the front, middle and back offices of some of the world's largest organisations operating globally, in Europe, North America and the Asia Pacific. Andrew has led many strategy implementations and the resulting transformations in critical areas such as customer service, contact centres, risk management, Finance, HR, sourcing, procurement and IT. He has also led many Operational Excellence projects transforming the manufacturing and supply chain footprint of a range of companies across several industries.

Andrew's clients have included Avaya, BP, BPN Paribas, BT, Chevron, Clough Engineering, Citibank, Deep Water Container Terminals, E.oN, Evraz, France Telecom, GE, General Motors, HSBC, International Paper, Johnson & Johnson, KCGM, Metro Group (Real, Makro, etc.), Microsoft, National Australia Bank, NCR, NLMK, NOL, Samsung, Standard Chartered and Telstra. Andrew has also worked with various governments and government agencies on large-scale infrastructure developments.





**DR JENNIFER HUNT**  
**LECTURER IN NATIONAL SECURITY,**  
**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

Dr Jennifer S. Hunt is a lecturer in Security Studies at Macquarie University, and a Research Associate at the US Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. Dr Hunt specialises in national security issues around critical systems including energy and cyber, and currently leads projects on cyber-enabled information operations, foreign interference and cyberwar, and tracking disinformation across terrains. Her most recent report analysing COVID-19 disinformation and its national security implications was published by the Global Health Security Network.

Jennifer has served as a delegate at the Shangri-la Security Dialogue, World Economic Forum in Abu Dhabi, and Cycon at the NATO Cyber Centre of Excellence. Dr Hunt has provided expert commentary on ABC's Q&A, *The Project*, BBC, and the History Channel. Dr Hunt holds a PhD and master's degree in International Security from the University of Sydney. She earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (USA) where she was captain of the Women's Sabre Fencing team. She also holds a private pilot's license.

**THE HONOURABLE DAVID JOHNSTON**  
**AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE EXPORT ADVOCATE,**  
**AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE**

The Honourable David Johnston was educated in Perth in Western Australia, where he attended Wesley College from 1967 to 1973 and then graduated from The University of Western Australia in 1981 with the law degrees B.Juris and LLB. David was elected to the Australian Parliament as a Senator for Western Australia in 2001 and served in that role for 15 years.

Before that, David was a barrister and solicitor in Western Australia practicing in the areas of Mining and Crime, and lived and worked on the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia for 12 years before returning to Perth to continue in the law as a barrister and in-house counsel, providing advice and representation mainly pertaining to mining matters in Western Australia.

In Parliament, David was, among other things, Chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee, appointed by Prime Minister Howard as Minister for Justice and Customs in 2007, Opposition spokesperson as Shadow Minister on Minerals Energy and Tourism, and then Defence, from 2009 to 2013, and then Minister for Defence in 2013 and 2014.

David has a strong commitment to the Australian defence industry and the current Australian Government's budgetary support of the Defence portfolio, particularly focusing on Australian naval ship and submarine building.

David is currently sitting on the Board of SAAB Technologies Australia, MCB Ltd (mining), International SOS (advisory board), The Centre for Defence Industry Capability (advisory board), The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (council), Pelican Clean Energy Pty Ltd (LNG wholesaler), and is the Commonwealth's Advocate for Australian Defence Industry Exports.





**MR TROY LEE-BROWN**  
PHD CANDIDATE,  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Troy Lee-Brown recently submitted his PhD at The University of Western Australia. His research project is titled 'The Rise and Strategic Significance of the Indo-Pacific'. Before joining UWA, Troy completed a Master of Arts in International Affairs at Murdoch University in 2014, with a thesis analysing the Senkaku/Diaoyu Island dispute. His interests include the Indo-Pacific concept, India, East Asia, regionalism, maritime and regional security.

**MS BONNIE LIN**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
THE RAINMAKERS GLOBAL

Bonnie Lin is an independent adviser investor and speaker with more than 20 years of international experience in commercial innovation, business development, strategic alliances and change leadership. Her background includes marketing for Silicon Valley dot coms, lean manufacturing in China and cross-border M&A and R&D grants under the Obama administration during the Great Recession. Bonnie has worked with more than 70 entrepreneurs and business leaders to scale their organisations and transform their people in seven countries through three economic recessions. In addition to Fortune 500 projects and coaching Shark Tank startups, she has founded four businesses including a tech startup and real estate investment brokerage.

A Vancouver 40 Under 40 winner, Bonnie was a regular media contributor on entrepreneurship and innovation in the U.S.. She has served on the boards of the U.S. District Export Council and Pacific Northwest Defence Coalition, and was a member of Keiretsu Forum angel investors in Seattle. Bonnie is the managing director of strategic advisory firm The Rainmakers Global and a general partner in iDNext Capital, a \$200-million Asia-backed venture capital fund in Silicon Valley. An advocate for entrepreneurship, social innovation and women in leadership, she is a Board Trustee for the Fogarty Foundation and an Indo-Pacific Fellow for Perth U.S. Asia Centre thinktank at UWA.

Bonnie is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Berkeley, an MBA from the University of Phoenix, and certificates in International Business from National Taiwan University, Venture Finance and Economics from UC Berkeley School of Law, and Value Investing from Columbia Business School.





**MR MATT MORAN**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,**  
**DEFENCE WEST**

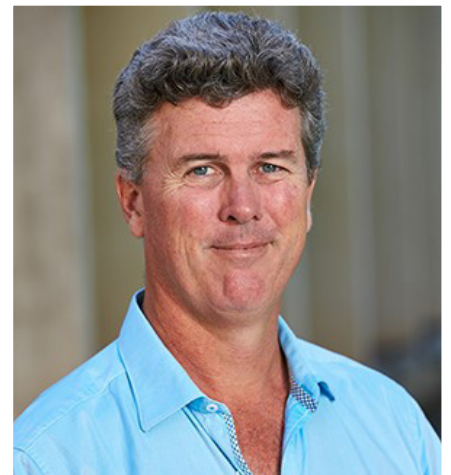
Matt is the inaugural Executive Director of Defence West. He is a Walkley Award winner and an Australian Army Afghanistan veteran.

Matt has extensive knowledge of defence, having experience as a senior adviser to the Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Defence. He has worked on the Department of Defence's most complex and expensive projects over the past few years.

Matt was also a media adviser to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. He deployed to Afghanistan as a Public Affairs Officer in 2009 and East Timor in 2007. He has also worked as a journalist with the ABC and Network Ten.

**PROFESSOR BENJAMIN REILLY**  
**PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Professor Benjamin Reilly is a Professor of Political Science and International Relations at The University of Western Australia. A specialist on issues of democracy and development, Professor Reilly regularly consults with governments around the Indo-Pacific region on these issues. His work bridges academic and real-world policy challenges and involves the UWA Public Policy Institute, the Perth USAsia Centre, the UWA Defence and Security Program and the School of Social Sciences at UWA.





**MS NATALIE SAMBHI**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER,**  
**VERVE RESEARCH**

Through her research, presentations and publications, Natalie Sambhi is committed to helping people gain a more nuanced understanding of Indonesian civil-military relations, Indonesian defence policy and Southeast Asian security.

Natalie is Founder and Executive Director of Verve Research, an independent research collective focused on the relationship between militaries and societies. Since 2020, she has been a Non-Resident Fellow with the Brookings Institution's Foreign Policy Program, where she publishes on Indonesian foreign and defence policy as well as Southeast Asian affairs. Natalie is a PhD scholar at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, the Australian National University, focusing on Indonesian military history.

Natalie has previously been a Research Fellow at the Perth USAsia Centre, and an Analyst and Managing Editor of ASPI's blog, *The Strategist* at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI). She has also worked at the Department of Defence and University of Canberra. In May 2014 and in January 2016, Natalie was a Visiting Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) in Washington, DC. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Asian Studies) (Hons) from The University of Western Australia and a Master of Arts (International Relations) and Master of Diplomacy from the Australian National University.

Natalie has been a guest lecturer and presenter at the Australian National University, Australian National Security College, Australian War College, Indonesian National Resilience Institute (LEMHANNAS), Indonesian Defense University, Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Canadian Department of National Defence and several international thinktanks and universities. Her writing has appeared in *Security Challenges journal*, *South China Morning Post*, *War On The Rocks*, *The Diplomat*, *The Interpreter* and *The National Interest*.

Natalie has previously been involved with the Australian Institute of International Affairs ACT; the US-based Center for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC) and was a founding member of the Women in Defence and Security Network (WDSN).

**PROFESSOR STEPHEN SMITH**  
**CHAIR,**  
**UWA DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTE,**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Professor Stephen Smith has been a Professor of Public International Law at The University of Western Australia since 2014. He is currently the Chairman of the UWA Defence and Security Program, Chairman of archTIS, Chairman of Sapien Cyber, Chair of the Advisory Board of the UWA Public Policy Institute, a member of the Board of the Perth USAsia Centre, and a Member of the Board of the LNG Marine Fuel Institute.

Professor Smith was the federal member for Perth for the Australian Labor Party from March 1993 until September 2013. In a distinguished career spanning 20 years in the Australian Federal Parliament, Professor Smith served as the Minister for Defence, and prior to that, as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Trade. Following his retirement from the Australian Parliament in 2013, Professor Smith was a member of the EY (Ernst and Young) Oceania Government and Public Sector Advisory Board (2014–2017), Chair of the Asia Desk and a member of the Advisory Board of Perth Law firm Lavan (2014–2017), and a member of the Board of Hockey Australia (2013–2016).

Professor Smith completed his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws at The University of Western Australia, and has practised as a barrister and solicitor in Perth. He completed a Master of Laws in Public International Law at London University, and subsequently lectured and tutored in Law in London.





**DR REBECCA STRATING**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,**  
**LA TROBE ASIA**

Bec is the Executive Director of La Trobe Asia and a Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations in the Department of Politics, Media and Philosophy at La Trobe University in Melbourne. Her current research interests include maritime disputes in the Indo-Pacific and Australian foreign policy. Bec is a non-resident Fellow of the Perth USAsia Centre. In 2019, she was awarded an Asia Studies Visiting Fellowship at the East-West Center in Washington DC to conduct a research project titled 'Defending the rules-based maritime order'.

Bec received her PhD in politics from Monash University in 2013, and in her academic career has published three monographs and numerous scholarly articles and book chapters. In 2018, her article on the Timor Sea maritime dispute was awarded the prestigious Boyer Prize by the Australian Institute of International Affairs for best article published in the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* in 2017. She is regularly invited to present at public and academic seminars and conferences, and is an advocate for greater visibility of women in Australian international relations debates and discussions.

**DR JEFFREY WILSON**  
**RESEARCH DIRECTOR,**  
**PERTH USASIA CENTRE,**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Dr Jeffrey Wilson is the Research Director at the Perth USAsia Centre. He provides leadership and strategic direction in developing the centre's research program across its publications, policy and dialogue activities. Dr Wilson specialises in the regional economic integration of the Indo-Pacific. He has particular expertise in the politics of trade agreements, regional economic institutions, and Australia's economic ties with Asia. He has been featured in local and international media outlets, contributed to a range of track-two dialogues between Australia and key regional partners, and supported policy development through consultancy, publication and advisory work.

A political scientist by training, Dr Wilson's research has been recognised as a recipient of the University of Sydney Medal (2006) and the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Research Award (Murdoch, 2015). He was the inaugural winner of the Australian Institute of International Affairs' Boyer Prize (2012) for his work on the politics of China-Australia mining investment. He holds a Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences (Hons) from the University of Sydney, and a PhD in International Relations from the Australian National University.





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