

JAPAN'S GRAND STRATEGY: HUGGING AND HEDGING

On Monday, 8 October, 2018 at 14:00–16:00
At the Seminar Hall
Arkadiankatu 23, entrance H (inner courtyard), Helsinki

For the past 70 years, the U.S. government has assumed that Japan's security policies would reinforce American interests in Asia. The political and military profile of Asia is changing rapidly, however. North Korea's missile and nuclear programs, China's rise, and the relative decline of U.S. power have commanded strategic review in Tokyo just as they have in Washington. What is the next step for Japan's security policy? Will confluence with U.S. interests-- and the alliance-- survive intact, or will it be transformed? Will Japan become more autonomous? Professor Samuels will explore how changes in the regional security environment have intersected with changes in domestic Japanese politics to shape Japan's grand strategic choices.

Keynote speaker:

Richard Samuels, Ford International Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Comments:

Bart Gaens, Senior Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Elina Sinkkonen, Senior Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Chair:

Mika Aaltola, Programme Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Biographies



Richard Samuels is Ford International Professor of Political Science and director of the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been head of the MIT Political Science Department, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Japan of the National Research Council, and chair of the Japan-US Friendship Commission. He has also been elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and was awarded an Imperial decoration, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star by the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese Prime Minister. 'Machiavelli's Children' won the Marraro Prize from the Society for Italian Historical Studies and the Jervis-Schroeder Prize from the International History and Politics section of American Political Science Association. His articles have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *International Security*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *International Organization*, *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, *The National Interest*, *Journal of Japanese Studies*, and *Daedalus*. In 2014 he was appointed Einstein Visiting Fellow at the Free University of Berlin, where he directs a research group on East Asian Security during the summer. His history of the Japanese intelligence community, *Special Duty*, will be published by Cornell University Press and in Japanese translation by Nikkei Publication in 2019.



Bart Gaens is Senior Research Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, and also works as Project Director at the Center on US Politics and Power (CUSPP). Furthermore, he is Adjunct Professor (Docent) in Japanese Studies at the University of Helsinki, and Specially-Appointed Associate Professor at the University of Osaka, Japan. In the recent past he has worked as Professor of Japanese Studies at the University of Helsinki. He has published on Europe-Asia relations, with a special focus on the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) process. Further research interests include Japan's foreign policy, as well as security-related issues in East Asia.



Elina Sinkkonen is Senior Research Fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. She received her doctorate from the University of Oxford, Department of Politics and International Relations in 2014 and has taught regularly at the University of Helsinki since 2008. Sinkkonen has published on Chinese national identity construction and coedited an award-winning book on new roles of women in Chinese society. Her further research interests include Chinese nationalism, public opinion issues in China, authoritarian regimes, regional security issues in East Asia as well as the domestic-foreign policy nexus in IR theory.



Mika Aaltola is the Programme Director of the Global Security research programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His areas of expertise are US foreign and domestic policies as well as the international system and major-power relations. Dr Aaltola is a visiting professor at the Tallinn University since 2011 and he holds the rank of docent from the University of Tampere. He has been a visiting researcher at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (fall 2013) and at the CERl Sciences Po (fall 2011). He obtained his PhD in social sciences from the University of Tampere in 1999. He has been a Member of the Board of the Finnish International Studies Association since 2005 and a Steering Committee Member of the Standing Groups of International Relations of EISA since 2010.