



———— GEOPOLITICS PROGRAMME ————

# Indo-Pacific

PROMOTING THE STUDY OF INDO-PACIFIC  
GEOPOLITICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



THE CENTRE FOR GEOPOLITICS IS A YOUNG BUT RAPIDLY GROWING CRITICAL CENTRE WHICH SEEKS TO DEEPEN THE STUDY OF GRAND STRATEGY AND STATECRAFT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

Headed by Professors Brendan Simms and William Hurst, it has a growing and diverse team of researchers whose work strives to provide historically grounded approaches to enduring geopolitical problems.

The Centre and each of its individual research programmes have flourishing partnerships and networks with leading international institutions and practitioners. These relationships offer innovative opportunities for collaboration and deliver impactful engagement with the wider world.

The Centre's main method of outreach is via a widely revered annual programme of nearly 100 (and growing) online and in-person events. Speakers and participants typically include high-profile academics, government officials, policymakers, and journalists. In addition to its events, the Centre has a podcast, summer school programme and extensive video library. This diverse range of bespoke content was accessed by over 100,000 people in the last year, and this output is set to grow further in line with an ever-expanding team of researchers and interest areas covered.

# The background



**Professor William Hurst**  
**Deputy Director and Leader of the Indo-Pacific and Global Research Strands**



**Dr William Figueroa**  
**Postdoctoral Research Associate, specialising in the China-Iran relationship**



**Professor Brendan Simms**  
**Director and Leader of the European and Middle-East and Eurasian research strands**



# What is the aim of the Indo-Pacific Geopolitics Programme?

THE AIM OF THE CENTRE'S INDO-PACIFIC GEOPOLITICS PROGRAMME IS TO DELIVER POLICY-RELEVANT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES RIGHT ACROSS THE ENTIRE REGION, FIRMLY AND DEEPLY GROUNDED IN HISTORY AND AREA STUDIES. THIS OFFERING IS UNIQUE WITHIN THE UK (AND WE BELIEVE MORE WIDELY).



Our aim

To this purpose, the programme has thus far delivered a robust series of speaker events, ongoing commentary articles for the Centre's newsletter and a variety of major media outlets, and the first two iterations of our Indo-Pacific Roundtable. The Roundtables are a particularly important part of building a new Indo-Pacific Network, as they bring academics from various disciplines and specialties from across the country together and into conversation with think tank analysts, consultants, officials and

experts from various government departments and agencies, and others.

The Indo-Pacific Geopolitics Programme is led by Professor William Hurst, Chong Hua Professor of Chinese Development at the University of Cambridge. He has been joined this academic year by Postdoctoral Research Associate William Figueroa, whose work and expertise focus on Iran and China in the 20th Century.

# Why is the Indo-Pacific region important?

THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION ENCOMPASSES THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION AND OVER 40% OF GLOBAL GDP (ALONG WITH ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF GLOBAL GDP GROWTH, PER WORLD BANK DATA).

The Indo-Pacific also includes the largest and second largest countries in the world, as well as at least three global powers (China, Japan, and India – though the other two

global powers, Russia and the US, are also both very active there), the largest and most important newly democratic country in the world (Indonesia), the world's largest and second largest majority-Muslim countries (Indonesia and Pakistan), the most important high-technology economies (Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan), at least three world financial hubs (Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Singapore), and many of the most critical geopolitical flashpoints (Korean Peninsula, Taiwan, South China Sea, India-Pakistan, etc.).





# How far have we got and what do we need now?

OUR WORK AT THE CENTRE FOR GEOPOLITICS IS DIVIDED INTO RESEARCH STRANDS AND PROGRAMMES.

Some of these, such as that focused on the Baltic, have been extremely effective and established themselves in the national and international academic and policy conversation. Others have been striving for similar success but have not so far had the necessary resources or complement of personnel.

To date, Professor William Hurst, has been working more-or-less on his own on the Indo-Pacific. Though Professor Hurst has long been working on Indonesia as a major component of his research, we currently are still too heavily weighted toward China and would benefit immensely from expanding our base of expertise and connections to cover more of our remit. Specifically, support for a

Postdoctoral Research Associate focused squarely on Southeast Asian politics or history would be transformative to our work over the next several years. With such a colleague in place, we could expand our offerings in this most dynamic yet under-studied part of the wider Indo-Pacific – home to the ten countries of ASEAN, with a collective population of nearly 700 million and encircling the South China Sea.

Beyond Southeast Asia, our work would also benefit from the addition of Postdoctoral Research Associates focused on Japanese, Korean, or South Asian politics or history. These countries and regions are equally important and, as yet, not that well covered by our research team.



# How can you support us?

THE CENTRE FOR  
GEOPOLITICS' WORK IS  
MADE POSSIBLE BY THE  
GENEROSITY OF OUR  
DONORS, LARGE AND SMALL.

The Indo-Pacific Geopolitics  
Programme is in particular need of  
funding to support new academic  
and research posts, and to help  
cover the operational costs  
associated with running its extensive  
events programme.



## Academic and research posts:

A Chair or Lectureship in the  
Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific (one  
or more of its countries or regions):  
£3.6m or £2.4m

A two-year Postdoctoral Research  
Associate: approximately £200,000

A student research assistant for one  
year: £8000

## Operational support and regular giving:

One iteration of our Annual  
Roundtable: £50,000

Speaker series for one term: £10,000

One speaker or panel event: £3000 -  
£5000

Each gift makes a difference, and we  
are immensely grateful to everyone  
who supports us.

To discuss how you can get involved  
with the Indo-Pacific programme,  
or offer support, please contact

**Professor William Hurst at [wjh45@  
cam.ac.uk](mailto:wjh45@cam.ac.uk).**