



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of Politics and  
International Studies



# Annual Report 2023



CENTRE FOR  
GEOPOLITICS

# Our Proposition

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## **OUR VISION**

Providing historically grounded approaches to enduring geopolitical problems.

## **OUR MISSION**

We apply historical analysis, political science, area studies and the experience of practitioners to confront major problems of conflict and world order, past, present and future.

## **WE DO THIS BY:**

**Understanding** – we conduct rigorous scholarly research into historical and contemporary geopolitical challenges and grand strategy.

**Educating** – we teach and inform current and future global decision-makers and the wider public.

**Connecting** – we bring together the worlds of academe, government, civil society, politics and business.

**Shaping** – we engage creatively to re-frame current geopolitical problems to shape debate and generate solutions.

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**Professor  
Brendan Simms**  
Director of the Centre for  
Geopolitics



**Professor  
William Hurst**  
Deputy Director of the  
Centre for Geopolitics

Now in its 10th year, the Centre for Geopolitics' growth continued apace in 2023, in terms of both in-house expertise and engagement with our audiences.

As ever, the heart of the Centre is our research that offers a deeper understanding of the world's most pressing geopolitical challenges: where they come from, how they may develop and how they might be resolved.

We remain indebted to the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit, which through its ongoing support has enabled much of the Centre's meteoric growth, including funding for three full-time postdoctoral researchers. In early 2024, thanks to the generosity of a benefactor, we will be welcoming a new Research Associate, specialising in the Baltic. This brings us to a total of five full-time 'postdocs', which will rise to six later in 2024.

In Michaelmas, we were delighted to bring Dr John Nilsson-Wright, a long-time Centre Affiliate, on board as Head of our new and rapidly expanding Japan and Korea Programme. John's addition to the Indo-Pacific team will also help us build a network

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# Letter from the Directors

of research institutions spanning Asia and the Pacific. We explain more about the plans of each research strand in the next section of this report.

The last year also saw more events and even greater engagement with our audiences than the high levels achieved in 2022. Our programme of more than 80 online and in-person events continued to address some of the most serious challenges facing global order, and videos of many of them have been viewed thousands of times online, further growing our international impact. An overview of this year's events programme is detailed in pages 18-21.

Over the Easter vacation, Directors Brendan Simms and Bill Hurst extended our global reach in-person, with a very successful trip to Canada helped by Cambridge in America, which quickly bore fruit in the shape of a significant donation.

As the Centre expands, our ability to draw on the knowledge of industry and governmental experts has also grown. At the beginning of the year, Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) allowed us to appoint long-term Centre Affiliate Suzanne Raine as official lead on Political/Policy Placement and expand her work with government analysts through our Visiting Scholars Programme (more on page 25).

HEIF additionally enabled the appointment of Michael Grundon as our Media Placement Consultant, working in partnership with our in-house experts to offer analysis to international press and broadcast media, and to establish the Centre as a valued and trusted source. More on the fruits of this engagement can be found on pages 28 & 29. Meanwhile, a generous donor enabled us to appoint Isabelle McRae as Development Consultant, helping to steward our existing donors and develop new sources of funding. We thank our supporters on pages 34 & 35. Sadly, our long-serving Chair of the Management Committee, Bridget Kendall, stepped down in June when her tenure as Master of Peterhouse had run its term. The Centre is deeply grateful for her advice and support over the years. We were very fortunate in having the Master of Emmanuel College, Doug Chalmers, former Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, step into her shoes in November. We look forward to working closely with Doug, who will help guide the Centre through the implementation of its business and further growth, engagement and impact in 2024.

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# Europe Strand

LED BY PROFESSOR BRENDAN SIMMS

**Post-doctoral Research Associates:**

Dr Hugo Bromley and Dr Donatas Kupčiūnas

**Research Assistants:** Juliette Bretan, Patrick McAlary, Ponpavi Sangsuradej, Elvira Tamus, Dr Lisa Vickers and Xiang Wei

Europe has always been shaped by an order – or orders. Historically, most of these have been internal to the continent, though over



the past one hundred years external powers have become more prominent. Today, we once again find ourselves in the forcefield of competing orders: the European Union, Brexited Britain, the USA in the aftermath of Trump's arrival in the White House, or Putin's Russia. Many of these actors are themselves internally conflicted about their place in the world and their attitude toward Europe.

The Europe Strand offers research dealing with the whole of the continent, and the war in Ukraine continues to be a major current theme. The Strand also pays particular attention to the UK's ordering role, past and present, as well as the interaction between 'Europe' and the UK's constitution as an incorporating Union of Four Nations. In this context, the flagship Baltic Geopolitics Programme investigates the enduring role that the UK has played in this vital geopolitical space. In 2024, we will focus more on the Mediterranean and its role within Europe and the wider global stage.



# UK UNION PROGRAMME

LED BY PROFESSOR BRENDAN SIMMS AND DR HUGO BROMLEY

2023 saw the UK Union Programme get fully underway, with support from Research Assistants Xiang Wei and Paddy McAlary, and Jack Liddall, a PhD student at POLIS working on parliamentary oversight before and after devolution.

The aim of the programme is to invite historians, political economists and policymakers to take a step back and look at the longer history of the political institutions that make up the ‘four nations’ of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Crucially, it also asks how we can build a strong political institutional system in which every citizen feels they have an equal voice, while encouraging political decision-making that works in the interests of the entire United Kingdom.

Over the last year, the programme hosted a major discussion of the concept of an Anglo-Scottish border with Willie Rennie MSP, Former Leader, Scottish Liberal Democrats, and Alyn Smith MP, SNP Europe and EU Accession Spokesperson. The programme also launched its ‘Witness to the Union’ events, with former First Ministers Lord Jack McConnell and Baroness Arlene Foster taking part. It worked with government to develop projects that we hope will show major results next year. At an individual level, the year saw scholars involved in the UK Union Programme continue to develop their own research, with Dr Hugo Bromley publishing a thought-piece on the formation of the Union with the Cambridge Centre for History and Economics.

# BALTIC GEOPOLITICS PROGRAMME

LED BY PROFESSOR BRENDAN  
SIMMS AND RT HON CHARLES  
CLARKE

The Baltic Sea region has been an area of considerable importance to the UK for over 1000 years. We consider that the UK academic focus on the Baltic Sea region is far less strong than it needs to be, particularly following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Centre's Baltic Geopolitics Programme, founded in January 2021, aims to increase understanding of the geopolitics of the Baltic and the UK's role in it.

The central organising principles of the Programme are that we need to learn from history, to engage both academics and practitioners, to focus on the whole Baltic Sea region – and on the Britain-Baltic relationship – and to emphasise the







geopolitical dimension of a wide range of policy contexts.

Putin's promulgation of a false historical context for the Baltic emphasises the contemporary importance of providing independent and academically rigorous analysis.

The Programme has organised over 50 events, some jointly with our partner universities. These are now mostly in-person, and mainly in Cambridge but also in the Baltic Sea region, for example in Gdansk, Helsinki, Turku, Tallinn, Berlin, Riga, Klaipeda and Copenhagen. We organise panel events at major security conferences such as the Munich Security Conference and the Warsaw Security Forum.

Our first Baltic Geopolitics Research Fellow was Dr Donatas Kupčiūnas and our second Trevelyan Wing, starts work with us in 2024. We participate in relevant international academic networks, such as the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS), the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES), and the Conference on Baltic Studies in Europe (CBSE). We will be hosting the CBSE 16th Conference in Cambridge on 24-26 April 2025.

# Indo-Pacific Strand

LED BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM HURST

**Post-doctoral Research Associate:**

Dr William Figueroa

**Research Assistants:** HA Chae Kyouon (CK), Janani Mohani, Connor O'Brien, Dr Alisa Santikarn and Wichuta Teeratanabodee

The Indo-Pacific Strand covers roughly two-thirds of the world, from South Asia and parts of Central Asia, to East and Southeast Asia and Oceania. We focus within this massive region on economic, security and broader aspects of international relations and geopolitics – but always with paramount attention to understanding the specific micro-dynamics of history, domestic politics, ideas, and exchanges rooted in area studies and language knowledge. For practical purposes, we often divide the broader Indo-Pacific into subregions, including Greater China, Southeast Asia/ASEAN, Japan and Korea, as well as the Pacific Islands, and South Asia – though we also do significant ‘boundary-spanning’ research and programming.

# GREATER CHINA PROGRAMME

Until very recently, the People's Republic of China was the largest country in the world by population and it remains the world's second-largest economy. It is also perhaps the only potential global challenger to the liberal international order and it features a particularly dynamic multifaceted and complex domestic political and social system.

Understanding all of this is critical to explaining any question in contemporary geopolitics. But Greater China has also long

featured a variety of distinct politics and political systems. Hong Kong and Macau – both before and after 1997/1999 – have been critical nodes of focused trade and other interactions. The Republic of China (Taiwan) has been a separate political order since the island was colonised by Japan in 1895 and after its return to Chinese sovereignty at the end of World War II. Taiwan was also among the first and most important 'developmental states' and continues to be an engine of global economic growth and technological innovation. We look at Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China both separately and in relation to one another on our new 'Greater China' Programme.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAMME

Southeast Asia is the most diverse sub-region of the Indo-Pacific, encompassing more than 650 million people (roughly 50% more than the EU), spread across 11 countries of wildly different sizes, populations and levels of GDP. There are

also at least a dozen major languages widely spoken and many religions - from Buddhism, to Islam, Catholicism and secularism - that predominate in particular countries and regions. The political systems represented range from absolute monarchies, to military juntas, Leninist Communist Party regimes, more or less liberal multiparty democracies, and more. We focus on specific countries and issues, as well as on broader dynamics that cut across the region.

# JAPAN & KOREAS PROGRAMME

HEADED BY DR JOHN NILSSON-WRIGHT

Northeast Asia has long been an arena for geopolitical conflict. Today, the region is a focal point for a wide range of policy issues, including addressing the nuclear risks associated with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea); human rights challenges; alliance coordination between the United States and its two key regional allies, Japan and the Republic of Korea (South Korea); newly emerging mini and multilateral security partnerships; regional economic integration initiatives; and widening and deepening Indo-Pacific cooperation between Asian, European, and North American partners.

The Japan and Koreas Programme considers these issues and the significance of the regions' increased governmental activism in shaping regional and global developments, particularly against the backdrop of recently strengthened trilateral co-ordination between the USA, Japan, and South Korea. The Programme also analyses the critically important relationship between domestic politics and foreign policy in influencing these developments, particularly given the growing rivalry globally between authoritarian and democratic regimes.

# Middle East Strand

LED BY PROFESSOR BRENDAN SIMMS

Post-doctoral Research  
Associate: Dr Anahita Arian  
Research Assistant:  
Dr Lisa Vickers



# WESTPHALIA FOR THE MIDDLE EAST PROGRAMME

DIRECTED BY PROFESSOR ALI ANSARI

The Westphalia for the Middle East Programme is a template for us to think differently about the means and ways in which a durable peace may be achieved in the Middle East. It seeks to draw lessons and themes from an earlier period when many of the assumptions of international relations had yet to be established and when Europe was itself a complex tapestry of competing sovereignties, both state and non-state, secular and sectarian. The purpose of the Westphalia Programme is to rethink and challenge our assumptions about the development of the state and international relations so that we can better understand a world that is complex and fluid.

Conflict in the Middle East today is deeply rooted in historical relations between the various states, ethnicities and sectarian groups. Bearing in mind the deeper historical tensions, current conflicts can be traced to disruptive events in the recent history of the region. The Westphalia Programme believes that historical experience and example can help us to better understand our own problems and how to solve them outside the constraints of international relations theory which is quintessentially a product of the 'modern' state-centred understanding of international politics. As such, it is an exercise in applied history.



# Global Strand

LED BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM HURST  
AND SUZANNE RAINE

**Post-doctoral Research Associate:**

Dr Eamonn O’Keeffe

**Research Assistants:** Samuel Abraham  
and Xiang Wei

The Global Strand allows us to explore themes which impact how states relate to each other, recognising that multilateral organisations, transnational movements, finance, climate, health, trade, technology, resources, development, crime, and terrorism cut across state boundaries and geographical regions.

Throughout our programming, we consider these issues within the context of our geographical area research. This strand also allows us to think about cross-cutting issues and their impacts through events and networking, with the aim of bringing together figures from business and industry, academia, government, and the wider public.

We make the most of our position within the University of Cambridge to make connections between disciplines and show how they impact each other. Next year we intend to bring this to life with a new series of events.



# MILITARY HISTORY WORKING GROUP

CONVENED BY DR EAMONN O'KEEFFE

The Military History Working Group brings together Cambridge-based scholars investigating the history of war and the military to discuss each other's work and approaches. The group is avowedly wide-ranging in chronology, discipline, and scope.

Events in 2023 included seminars on 18th Century British grand strategy, black soldiers in the Caribbean, and 20th Century military affairs from aerial bombing to mutinies in Africa and the Middle East. The group has hosted a variety of external speakers, including Israeli historians who shared reflections on Holocaust history and education. Members also visited the Churchill Archives in Cambridge, which holds impressive collections relating to 20th Century military history.



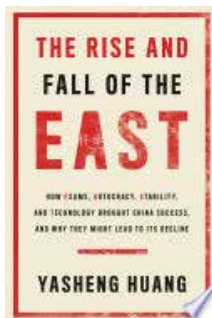
# Events

THE CENTRE'S EXTENSIVE AND DIVERSE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS IS ONE OF OUR DEFINING STRENGTHS.

In 2023, we delivered over 40 speaker seminars, 20 expert panel discussions and five half or full-day symposia. Our in-house experts also represented the Centre at many leading international conferences. Here are just a few highlights from across the year:

## January

Professor Huang Yesheng from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology presented his book



**'The Rise and the Fall of the EAST: Examination, Autocracy, Stability, and Technology in Chinese History and Today'.**

The video of the talk has been viewed over 6000 times.

The Westphalia for the Middle East Programme hosted a panel discussion on **'Women, peace and security in the Middle East'**.

Professor Chris Andrew delivered a lecture on **'Why the history of intelligence matters today'**.





the Centre on **'Britain and the Central Mediterranean'**.

The Baltic Geopolitics Programme welcomed over 100 guests to its second annual symposium, including many international members of the Baltic Geopolitics Network. This year's theme was **'From chaos to the New World Order: The Baltic in the aftermath of the First World War'**. The videos of the panels have been viewed over 1000 times.

## February

The Centre returned to the Munich Security Conference with a joint panel with the Koerber Stiftung on **'The legacies of history in the Baltic Sea region and their applications for the present day'**.

The Baltic Geopolitics Programme hosted **'Energy security in the Baltic and Northern Europe'** at the House of Lords, with the support of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Network of Liberty Fund.

## March

Former Prime Minister of Malta, Lawrence Gonzi, addressed



## April

Michael Ignatieff, the former Rector of the Central European University in Budapest, spoke on the **'The geopolitics of academic freedom'**.



The UK Union Programme hosted the first in its series of **'Witness to the Union'** events, with guest Baroness Arlene Foster. The purpose of the series is to bring to Cambridge those who have been at the heart of the UK Union's recent history to further understanding of both the longer history of our Union, and what might lie in its future.

### May

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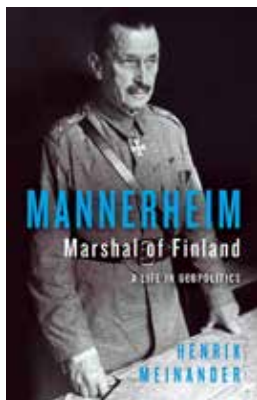
Guests invited to the closed Indo-Pacific Roundtable took part in three panel discussions that were open to the public. These covered **'Environmental emergencies in the Indo-Pacific'**, **'The end of globalisation?'** and **'Britain's role in the Indo-Pacific'**.

The Military History Working Group hosted a group of scholars from Western Galilee College to present their work on **'The Holocaust and the Second World War'**.

### June

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Professor Henrik Meinander talked to Rt Hon Charles Clarke



### Marshal of Finland: A Life in Geopolitics'

Dr Lee Shin-wha, Ambassador for International Cooperation on North Korean Human Rights of the Republic of Korea; and Professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Korea University,, gave a presentation on **'North Korean human rights abuses and security concerns: A parallel challenge'**.

### July

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Professor Brendan Simms spoke at **'The Good Friday Agreement: 25 years on'** – a half-day symposium, delivered with long-term partners Seminar on the Island of Ireland at St Catharine's College.

### August

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Professor William Hurst chaired an online panel discussion on the **'Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Tran-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)'**.



## September

Andrew Cainey discussed his recently co-authored book, **'Xiconomics: What China's Dual Circulation Strategy Means for Global Business'**, in conversation with Professor William Hurst.

## October

The Centre hosted a very successful panel on **'European security and the Baltic Sea'** at the Warsaw Security Forum.

The Japan & Korea Programme hosted the **'Korea Global Forum 2023'** in partnership with the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Cambridge, and the Peace and Democracy Institute of Korea University. The Forum opened with a keynote address by Dr Kim Yung Ho, Minister of Unification of the Republic of Korea.

A panel of Middle East experts discussed **'The changing geopolitics of the Middle East and the prospects for peace'**. The long-planned sold-out event



took place just after the Hamas attack on Israel.

## November

A panel of experts including the former UK Ambassador to Moscow, Sir Laurie Bristow, discussed **'Understanding Putin's Russia'**.

The celebrated military historian and analyst of the current Ukraine war, Professor Phillips O'Brien, gave us his invaluable insights into the conflict.

A panel of experts unpacked **'Populism in the Indo-Pacific'**, focusing on India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, China, and Indonesia.

## December

Following our second simulation of the year, Rt Hon Douglas Alexander, Air Vice Marshal (Ret'd) Mike Hart, Suzanne Raine and Dr Hugo Bromley then then discussed the potential impact of a nuclear accident in the Baltic Sea region in **'Decision-making in times of crisis – how does Britain act, and how can it do better?'**

# Roundtables

## INDO-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

In May 2023, the Centre hosted its third Indo-Pacific Roundtable, which once again focused on a blend of economic and security issues, both within and across the panoply of states that make up this vast region. It brought together more than 100 in-person attendees over two days, and featured three high-profile public panels – the recordings of which have since garnered over 1000 views online – alongside a full day of closed discussion sessions on a broad range of topics.



## EUROPEAN ROUNDTABLE

The sixth annual European Roundtable was held at Peterhouse in early September 2023. It was attended by over thirty leading academics, generals, public intellectuals, and churchmen. Next to the Ukraine War, this year's gathering paid particular attention to the questions of supply chains and the role of religion in geopolitics.

## UK UNION ROUNDTABLE

The first roundtable organised by the UK Union Programme was held in July, and was chaired by Lord McDonald of Salford, former Permanent Secretary of the FCDO, and Dan Mulhall, former Irish ambassador to the UK and the US. It brought together individuals from both countries with relevant experience in politics, the civil service and academia to discuss the future of British-Irish relations, the challenges and opportunities involved, and what might be required to help carry that vital, multi-faceted relationship forward in the years ahead.

# TEACHING

## GREAT POWERS MPhil COURSE

The course on **'The Great Powers in Europe today'**, offered by Professor Brendan Simms as part of the MPhil in Politics and International Relations, was once again fully subscribed. In November, the participants met privately with the former EU Ambassador to the UK, Mr João Vale de Almeida, to hear about his experiences during the Brexit negotiations and what working in the Foreign Service of the European Union is like.

## BALTIC GEOPOLITICS MPhil COURSE

Professor Brendan Simms, Dr Hugo Bromley, and Dr Donatas Kupciunas taught the **'Britain and the Geopolitics of the Baltic, 1600 to Present'** course to a very

international group of MPhil students. Part of the course was a crisis simulation event entitled **'The ice curtain? Testing the strength of NATO's northern flank'**.

## BALTIC SUMMER SCHOOL

In July, the Baltic Geopolitics Programme took 18 students from a diverse range of disciplines at the University of Cambridge to its second Baltic Summer School in Gdańsk, Poland. The programme entitled **'Borders, infrastructure changes and socio-cultural impact (past and present)'** aimed to raise awareness of this important but often neglected part of Europe among Cambridge students who had not previously had the chance to study about or visit the area, thus creating a new pipeline of interest in the region.

## GEOPOLITICAL RISK ANALYSIS STUDY GROUP

In Michaelmas, the Centre launched a study group in geopolitical risk analysis to provide training for final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students interested in careers in the field. Led by Dr Timothy Less, the course, based on real-life cases studies, strives to develop skills such as research, critical thinking, drafting, modelling and scenario mapping.



## SIMULATIONS

SINCE 2015, THE CENTRE HAS RUN A SERIES OF STRATEGIC SIMULATION EXERCISES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE POLIS MPHIL COHORT.

These exercises bring politicians, academic experts, officials, diplomats, and military leaders together with our students in a true-to-life, real-time simulation of the UK's National Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBR) in operation.

In June, the Centre ran its first simulation of the year, with former UK Home Secretary Amber Rudd serving as Prime Minister. It examined the UK's 'Pacific Tilt', and the depth of existing interests in this

geographically distant region. The day raised questions for policymakers about the choices that would face the UK in the event of regional conflict between the US and China, and the utility of expensive military assets, such as the UK's new aircraft carriers.

In December, we looked to the precarious security situation on NATO's eastern flank. With the Russian war on Ukraine war seemingly heading into a prolonged stalemate we enquired into the risks that this would bring to the entire region, looking at the likelihood of a sudden, unforeseen crisis emerging. With the participation of former Secretary of State for Scotland, Douglas Alexander, we also examined how the internal constitutional pressures on UK decision-making might impact the UK's overall crisis response capability.



## VISITING SCHOLARS

EACH TERM, THE CENTRE'S VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAMME HOSTS A SMALL NUMBER OF PROFESSIONALS FROM UK GOVERNMENT'S ANALYTICAL COMMUNITY, AND IN 2023 WE HOSTED TEN IN TOTAL.

The Programme's aim is for the analysts to conduct a piece of research on a topic of strategic significance to the UK, enabling them to benefit from the academic expertise in Cambridge and to build lasting networks. This year we welcomed one research analyst per term from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, alongside analysts from the Ministry of Defence.

Research topics are always diverse and – importantly – are not confined to traditional geopolitics, but instead demonstrate the connectivity between different areas of research in the University. Topics included: conflict between farmers and herders in Africa and how these conflicts link to insurgent movements; the legacy of the

1990s Balkans War within the extreme right-wing terrorist movement; how open source information could provide indicators and warnings of the next pandemic; the Indian Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) use of a Hindu civilisational narrative and its implications for Indian foreign policy; how the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) uses escalation to achieve strategic objectives; and the use of language around likelihood and probability, exploring techniques to improve how judgements in assessment are made and communicated.



# NETWORKS

## **Baltic Geopolitics Network**

In 2021, the Baltic Geopolitics Programme established the Baltic Geopolitics Network, an informal group which connects scholars from eleven (now twenty) leading universities and research institutes from the UK and the Baltic Sea region (except Russia, currently). We seek to build and disseminate knowledge on the history and geopolitics of this region.

## **Indo-Pacific Network**

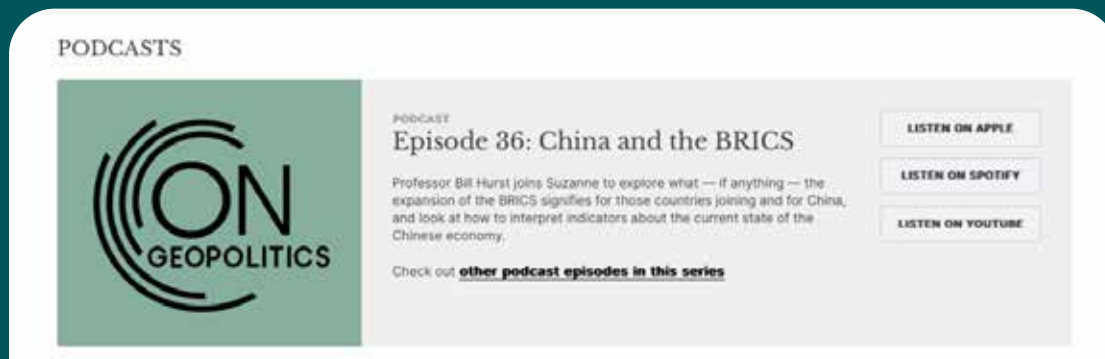
We are well on the way to building a network of affiliated centres and universities across the region and have established contacts across more than 10 countries in support of this goal. We look forward to developing and deepening the network in the years ahead.

# ON GEOPOLITICS PODCAST

HOSTED BY PROFESSOR ALI ANSARI AND SUZANNE RAINE

This year, the Centre's regular On Geopolitics Podcast produced eighteen new episodes and saw a steady increase in the number of listeners and positive feedback. Through conversations with the Centre's experts and external guests, it provided informed commentary on contemporary geopolitical issues, such as the upcoming year of elections around the world, the Russian war on Ukraine, the Chinese-brokered deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia, China and the BRICS, the relationship between Japan and South Korea, tensions in the Caucasus, the state of Europe, and the role of geopolitics in the UK Union.

It also focused on thematic aspects of geopolitics, including an interview with Professor Mike Hulme, Head of the University's Department of Geography, on the geopolitics of climate change, and an episode on the battle for global energy resources. A recurring theme was the role of history in geopolitics and the processes by which history is made. It also looked at how a historical narrative shapes contemporary decision-making, how ideas and concepts (such as Realpolitik, or authoritarian resilience) drive arguments about approaches today, the impact of personal relationships between leaders, and the difficulty for political leaders to take decisions at a moment of crisis.



## PUBLISHED

THE CENTRE FOR GEOPOLITICS IS NOW ACTIVELY PROMOTING ITS AREAS OF EXPERTISE TO THE WIDER PUBLIC, WITH AN INCREASING NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARTICLES AND OPINION PIECES ARRIVING FROM THE UK AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA.

The Centre for Geopolitics is a repository of world-class knowledge and experience, and, in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, the wider understanding of origins and implications has never been more important. Our media engagement is increasingly seen as a valuable element of our work.

### Just a few of our highlights in 2023:

#### January

**'Trust is the key to geopolitical strength. Geopolitical trust is intrinsic to the making and breaking of states on the international scene'**, by Brendan Simms is published by Engelsberg Ideas.

#### February

India Today publishes **'Rahul Gandhi to deliver lecture at Cambridge University later this month'**, about the **Centre for Geopolitics'** co-hosted closed roundtable event.

#### March

The Telegraph publishes online **'Russia and China's new alliance is beginning to echo December 1941. Now as then, time is of the essence. To ensure peace, the West must prepare for war'**, by Brendan Simms and Centre alumnus Charlie Laderman.

#### April

William Hurst is interviewed by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire about **'Donald Trump's arraignment for criminal charges in a New York court'**.

ENGELSBERG  
IDEAS

INDIA  
TODAY

The Telegraph

BBC RADIO  
Cambridgeshire

9DASHLINE

**May**

9DASHLINE publishes **'Guns before butter? Multi-dimensional diplomacy in China-Europe relations'** by William Hurst.

**June**

John Nilsson-Wright is a studio guest on the BBC World Service programme "Weekend" speaking on **'Japan & Korea's related subjects'** over three 50-minute segments.

**July**

**'The new shadow of the bomb. It's unlikely that Russia will use a nuclear weapon in Europe – but not impossible'**, by Charles Clarke is published by the New European.

**August**

Donatas Kupčiūnas provides expert comment for an i News' article on Prigozhin's death: **'The week that Putin regained his grip on power as plane crash wiped out biggest rival'**.

**September**

The New Statesman publishes **'What Putin learned from Hitler. The two dictators considered themselves engaged in a**

**life-and-death struggle with Western imperialism – and retaliated with their own plans for world domination'**, By Brendan Simms.

**October**

Timothy Less publishes **'Contradictions at the heart of an expanding Europe'** for Modern Diplomacy.

**November**

Eamonn O'Keeffe wins the 2023 Pollard Prize for the best paper presented by an early-career researcher at an Institute for Historical Research (IHR) seminar. The paper, **'Military music and society during the French wars, 1793–1815'**, was published in the journal Historical Research.

**December**

**'Yet another flight across the Durand Line. Pakistan's expulsion of Afghan refugees is a ghastly new development in relations between the two countries...'**, by Suzanne Raine is published by Engelsberg Ideas.



THE NEW EUROPEAN



# THE YEAR AHEAD

BY PROFESSOR BRENDAN SIMMS  
AND PROFESSOR WILLIAM HURST

The Centre looks forward to further expansion in 2024. We will appoint three new Post-doctoral Research Fellows in the spring as part of the Ax:son Johnson Institute for Statecraft and Diplomacy. Plans are also afoot to revive the Engelsberg Applied History Programme, a major partnership with King's College London, and the Baltic Geopolitics Programme will welcome its second dedicated 'postdoc.' The resulting increased capacity will allow us to deliver more and better research and events on the background to many of the world's most pressing problems.

January 2024 sees the appointment of Sir John Jenkins as co-lead (with Brendan Simms) on phase two of our Westphalia for the Middle East Programme, which looks at how the obstacles that impair the establishment of durable peace in the region can be tackled and addressed. John served as UK Ambassador to several countries in

the Middle East during some of its most difficult and turbulent times and brings a wealth of experience, contacts, influence and cultural understanding to the table. John will work with Isabelle McRae, our Development Consultant, to bring in new sources of funding for the programme's expansion, including a series of events here in the UK and the Centre's participation in important international events.

The Centre will step up its fundraising efforts to put the Indo-Pacific Programme on a firmer footing. Donations are sought to fund a dedicated 'postdoc' with an interest in Greater China, Southeast Asia, Japan and the Koreas or the wider region, and to expand the Indo-Pacific Strand's programme of Roundtable gatherings. New sources of funding are also sought to develop our growing offering on the UK Union. Individuals and institutions interested in providing support to any of our programmes should contact either the respective Strand leader or email our Development Consultant Isabelle McRae at [mcrae.isabelle@gmail.com](mailto:mcrae.isabelle@gmail.com).

All the Centre for Geopolitics' work – to offer historically grounded approaches to enduring geopolitics problems - is funded by the generosity of our donors. Once again, we thank them for enabling the Centre's output in 2023 and our ambitious plans for growth in the coming year.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee meets three times a year, with the purpose of advising and supporting the Directors of the Centre through scrutiny and strategic counsel. Chaired by Doug Chalmers, Master of Emmanuel College, the Committee comprises leaders and former leaders from within the University.

- Catherine Arnold, Master of St Edmund's College
- Professor Jude Browne, Head of the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS), University of Cambridge
- Doug Chalmers, CB DSO OBE, Master of Emmanuel College
- Sir Richard Billing Dearlove, former Master of Pembroke College
- Dr Elisabeth Kendall, Mistress of Girton College
- Professor John Naughton, Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Research in the

Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), University of Cambridge

- Professor Andrew Preston, Professor of American History, University of Cambridge
- Professor Helen Thompson, Professor of Political Economy at the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS), University of Cambridge
- Professor Marc Weller, Professor of International Law and International Constitutional Studies, University of Cambridge

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THE CENTRE FOR GEOPOLITICS DRAWS ON THE EXPERTISE AND COMMITMENT OF THE IAB IN EXPANDING OUR RESEARCH AGENDA AND POLICY IMPACT ACTIVITIES.

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The Centre depends heavily on its supporters to help fund its activities and running costs, which continue to grow in response to the increasing need for geopolitical expertise grounded in academic research. We are extremely grateful to the donors, trusts and foundations whose enormous generosity has not only funded PhD studentships and the work of our early career fellows and established academics, but also our extensive events programme.

We would like to acknowledge the essential support of the following foundations and individuals:

- British Embassy in Riga
- British Embassy in Tallinn
- The Cambridge Security Initiative
- Sir Andrew Cook CBE
- Mr Paul Cook
- Estonian Embassy in London
- Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
- Mr David Graus
- Mr Roger Hertog
- Higher Education Innovation Fund
- Mr Andy Holmes
- The Korea Foundation
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan)
- The National Army Museum
- Mrs Hilary Papworth
- Mr Björn Savén
- Ms Heidi von Stein
- Mr Alexander Tsikhilov, Chairman at Admiral Markets AS (Estonia)
- Mr Simon Wadsworth & Mrs Jill Wadsworth
- Mr Richard Watson

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- Hans-Seidel Stiftung
- Mr Alan Houmann, Citigroup
- Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
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- Lithuanian Embassy in London
- Ministry of Unification, Republic of Korea
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- The Peace and Democracy Institute
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- Mr William Wells, Rothschild & Co

## THE TEAM

- Professor Brendan Simms, Director
- Professor William Hurst, Deputy Director
- Charis Whitcombe, Centre Coordinator
- Michelle Houghton, Events & Communications Coordinator

### Postdoctoral Research Associates

- Dr Anahita Arian
- Dr Hugo Bromley
- Dr William Figueroa
- Dr Donatas Kupčiūnas
- Dr Eamonn O’Keeffe

### Programme Leads and Consultants

- Professor Ali Ansari, Director of the Westphalia for the Middle East Programme
- Rt Hon Charles Clarke, Joint Leader of the Baltic Geopolitics Programme
- Michael Grundon, Media Placement Consultant
- Timothy Less, Convener of the Geopolitical Risk Analysis Study Group
- Isabelle McRae, Development Consultant
- Dr John Nilsson-Wright, Head of the Japan & Koreas Programme
- Suzanne Raine, Political/Policy Placement Consultant and Joint Leader of the Global Strand

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