

Giridharan Ramasubramanian is a PhD candidate from the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy in the Australian National University. He recently completed a student research fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in Princeton University. His dissertation examines institution building in the Asia-Pacific within the context of institutional complexity and, in turn, how regional institutions end up shaping the institutional complex.

Thuy Trang Le is a PhD student at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University. Previously, she worked at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) in Hanoi, first at the DAV's Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies and then at its Bien Dong Institute for Maritime Studies. Before commencing her study at the ANU, she was educated in Vietnam, New Zealand and the United States.

Han-Hui Hsieh is a PhD candidate from the Political Science and International Relations program at the University of Southern California. His doctoral studies have been sponsored by the Fulbright scholarship and the scholarship for studying abroad from the Ministry of Education of Taiwan. His research focuses on hierarchy in international relations, historical East Asian international relations, and Chinese hegemony, especially China's use of multiple sources of ideational power beyond Confucianism to legitimize its domination over its subordinates.

Ellen Kim is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Southern California and an Adjunct Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Relations (CSIS). Previously, she was Associate Director of the Korea Chair at CSIS, where she was also a Fellow. Her research interests are East Asian security, U.S. grand strategy in Asia, and international political economy. Her latest publication *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: South Korea's Strategic Dilemmas with China and the United State*, coauthored with Victor Cha, was published in the Asia Policy Journal. She also coauthored a quarterly review of U.S.-Korea relations in Comparative Connections, an electronic journal on East Asian bilateral relations, with Victor Cha. Ms. Kim holds a B.A. in international

relations and Japanese studies from Wellesley College and an M.P.P. from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She speaks fluent Korean and moderate Japanese.

Na Young Lee is a second year Ph.D. student at USC Political Science and International Relations (POIR) program. Her research interest pertains to the role of hierarchy in international relations and security in pre-Modern East Asia. Broadly, her fields of interest include comparative politics and international security. She is a graduate of Yonsei University (BA) and Seoul National University (MA).

Paul Orner is a third year Ph.D. student in USC's Political Science International Relations program. His research interests include security in the Asia Pacific and Chinese foreign policy, with an emphasis on China-Japan-US relations.

Kyuri Park is a Ph.D. student in the Political Science and International Relations program at the University of Southern California. Her research revolves around international relations in East Asia, hierarchy, and US allies' arms procurement decisions. She received her M.A. in Asian Studies at Georgetown University and her B.A. in International Relations from Ewha Women's University in Seoul, South Korea.

Pongkwan "PK" Sawasdipakdi is a PhD student in Political Science and International Relations at University of Southern California. Her research interests are in political psychology, political communication, and diplomacy. A book on the International Relations as a Discipline in Thailand in which she contributed a chapter was recently published by Routledge. Prior to USC, she taught international relations at Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University in Thailand from 2014-2017.