GRADNAS Methods Co-Lab
for Asian Security and International Relations

14 – 16 December 2023
The Australian National University, Canberra

BACKGROUND

The Graduate Research and Development Network on Asian Security (GRADNAS) was established in September 2015 to build an international network of scholars undertaking cutting-edge research on strategic and security issues in Asia. GRADNAS specifically promotes Asian security research that *effectively combines conceptual rigour and innovation with deep empirical analysis*. The GRADNAS Methods Co-Lab will be our Network's flagship activity, bringing together the Senior Scholars Network (SSN) and the Emerging Scholars Network (ESN), as well as other PhD students and post-doctoral scholars. Following the inaugural School in 2023, we aim to organize one GRADNAS Methods Co-Lab every few years.

CONCEPT

Scholars of Asian security and international relations have long counted among the consumers of social science methods: most of us are trained within one discipline (usually political science), many of us try to publish within the mainstream of these disciplines, and we regularly send our graduate students off to various international social science methods schools. But our field is characterized by (a) its multi-disciplinarity and trans-disciplinarity; and (b) its explicit and constant bridging of key divides, such as those between area studies and political science, historical and contemporary, economic and security, and academia and policy. In recent years, leading scholars have also argued more strenuously that Asian security complexes and regional international systems or societies manifest deep and rich empirical complexities that remain under-studied; and that, such studies of Asian IR and security might in turn challenge existing theories and concepts in IR and IS, and provide new bases and cases for new theorizing that will reshape these fields (including GRADNAS SSN members Acharya 2017; Foot & Goh 2019; Kang 2019).

The GRADNAS Methods Co-Lab for Asian Security & IR will focus strongly on 'methods' understood as the range of inter-disciplinary qualitative approaches most suitable for studying Asian security topics, and pay acute attention to how to pose the most useful research questions for studying this region and how to develop effective research designs. The inaugural Co-Lab will be led by 4 faculty composed of GRADNAS SSN members, and will accommodate up to 30 international PhD student and post-doctoral/early career participants (final numbers depend on funding). The faculty will lead masterclasses on pre-selected methods and approaches, and there will also be sessions for participants to workshop their ongoing research or create reading

groups. Over time, our aim is to establish the GRADNAS Methods Co-Lab as a key global training venue for scholars studying Asian security and IR, supplementing more generalist and mixed-methods programs like the methods schools run by Syracuse, Essex, and IPSA-NUS.

2023 GRADNAS METHODS CO-LAB TEACHERS & THEMES

HISTORY AND THE CRAFT OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY
Professor ANG Cheng Guan, Nanyang Technological University

with Dr. Iain Henry, The Australian National University

COPING WITH POWER, ORDER, AND CHANGE
Professor Evelyn GOH, The Australian National University

with Dr. Rohan Mukherjee, LSE

CONSTRUCTING REGIONS AND REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
Professor Alice D. BA, University of Delaware

with Dr. Robert Yates, University of Bristol

RELATIONALITY, KNOWLEDGE, AND POST-WESTERN APPROACHES
Professor SHIH Chih-yu, National Taiwan University

with Dr. Pichamon Yeophantong, Deakin University

We thank the Co-Lab faculty for donating their services, our GRADNAS partners for sponsoring their participants, and the ANU's Strategic and Defence Studies Centre and College of Asia and the Pacific for generous funding for this inaugural Methods Co-Lab. These arrangements have allowed us to run this pilot program without charging teaching and administrative fees (as other methods schools do).

PROGRAM

DAY ONE *Thursday 14 December 2023*	
MORNING	INTRODUCTION & SET-UP
0900-0930H	GRADNAS: origins, ambitions, networks
0930H-1000H	The CO-LAB: concept and pedagogy
1030-1200H	Faculty introductions and 'Getting the questions right': 　i　What to research in Asian security & IR 　ii　How to ask the question 　iii　Why and how the question skews your research
LUNCH	Getting-to-know-us
1200-1330H	Participant project introductions
AFTERNOON	MASTERCLASS 1 History and the Craft of Contemporary History *Prof. Ang Cheng Guan, with Dr. Iain Henry*
1330-1430H	Researching and crafting diplomatic history
1445-1545H	The challenge of contemporary history
1600-1700H	Moving between the two: revisiting the 'Domino theory' and Southeast Asia
EVENING	Welcome Dinner (on campus, catered buffet)
1800H-2000H	Including time for group preparations for Day Two
DAY TWO *Friday 15 December 2023*	
MORNING	MASTERCLASS 2 Coping with Power, Order and Change *Prof. Evelyn Goh, with Dr. Rohan Mukherjee*
0900-1000H	Power and change: the study of influence
1015-1115H	Power and order: analyzing the great and the non-great in IR/IS
1130-1230H	Inductive plus deductive: learning and doing
LUNCH	
1230-1330H	

AFTERNOON	MASTERCLASS 3 Constructing Regions and Regional International Society *Prof. Alice Ba, with Dr. Robert Yates*
1330-1430H	Researching regions and regional international society: The Asia Problematique
1445-1545H	Processes of becoming
1600-1700H	Studying emergent Asia(s) in Process
EVENING	Off-campus dinner in restaurant (within walking distance)
1830-2000H	Including time for group preparations for Day Three

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DAY THREE
Saturday 16 December 2023

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MORNING	MASTERCLASS 4 Relationality, Knowledge, and Post-Western Approaches *Prof. Shih Chih-yu, with Dr. Pichamon Yeophantong*
0900-1000H	Colonialism, racism, and epistemicide in security essentialism and de-essentialism
1015-1115H	Post-colonial threat perceptions?
1130-1230H	Plenary discussion: post-Western approaches to Asian security
LUNCH	
1230-1330H	
AFTERNOON	REFLECTIONS

1300-1500H	What have we learnt?
	    i Connecting across the Masterclasses
	    ii What are the better research questions?
	    iii What is 'method' in Asian security and IR?

1500-1530H	CLOSING AND THANKS
1530-1700H	FREE TIME
EVENING	Off-campus casual outdoor drinks and dinner (10-min drive)
1700H-1900H	