



## CUSPP US RESEARCH DAY 2015

### *US and the Asia-Pacific: Politics, Security and Economy*

On Tuesday 28 April, at 10:00–18:00

At the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (Kruunuvuorenkatu 4, 2nd floor, Helsinki)

With the announcement of ‘America’s Pacific Century’ in 2011, economically vibrant and politically active Asia-Pacific region, and particularly China, was publically recognised as the new top priority in the US foreign policy agenda. The subsequent policy response, the so-called US rebalancing to Asia, has become topical from economic, security and political perspectives. For example, the US has pursued the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in the economic sphere, increased its military presence in the security sphere, and improved partnerships in the political sphere. These developments were carefully followed in Europe, accompanied by a growing fear that the US was leaving Europe behind. At the same time, there also appeared questions concerning the ability and willingness of the US to meet the risen expectations related to the rebalancing.

The US Research day will concentrate on looking at the US – Asia-Pacific relations from political, economic and security perspectives. Special emphasis will be paid on the US – Asia-Pacific relations in the wider perspective of US power and world/regional order, as well as on US relations to China and other emerging powers more specifically. What are the prospects and challenges of US collaboration with various Asian powers? How will the regional order, including existing alliances, develop? Does the US rebalancing to Asia have a future, and if so, of what kind? How will the rebalancing develop after the Obama administration?

#### PROGRAMME

##### **Morning Session 10:00–12:00**

*Opening remarks:* **Mika Aaltola**, Programme Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

*Speakers:* **Adam Quinn**, Senior Lecturer, University of Birmingham

**Xing Li**, Professor, Aalborg University

*Comments:* **Elina Kalkku**, Director General, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

*Chair:* **Michael Haltzel**, Visiting Senior Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

## Afternoon Session 13:30–18:00

*Chair:* **Charly Salonius–Pasternak**, Senior Research Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

13:30–14:15 *Keynote address*

**Robert Nurick**, Visiting Senior Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs  
“*The Ukraine Crisis and US Global Commitments*”

14:30–16:30 *Researcher workshop*

**Kari Möttölä**, Visiting Scholar, Professor, University of Helsinki  
“*National Security Strategy 2015 – reordering priorities?*”

**Bart Gaens**, Senior Research Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs  
“*Japan–US relations: Towards the end of the client state?*”

**Elina Sinkkonen**, Senior Research Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs  
“*Battling on two fronts? Security and economic aspects to China–US relations in the Asia–Pacific*”

**Teemu Mäkinen**, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Tampere  
“*Congressional challenge to Asia pivot*”

16:30 ***Networking event:*** US politics research in Finland

For further information, please contact:

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