



GOVERNMENT &  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SYMPOSIUM

# GOVERNMENT & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SYMPOSIUM

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GIR LEADERS

2 – 5 August, 2021  
Conference Booklet





## ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The 2021 Government and International Relations (GIR) Symposium is a unique, multidimensional conference event designed to up-skill and empower the next generation of leaders. With a future focused dimension, the Symposium offers a range of lectures and panel discussions revolving around the key issues in society today. We aim to prepare GIR students to pioneer the solutions of the future by providing networking opportunities and access to meet like-minded people.

## OUR SPONSORS



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**SYDNEY**

## EVENT TYPES

Seminar	Hear from Experts in the field with an opportunity to have your questions answered
In Conversation With	Witness two speakers discuss live their research, expertise, and collaboration
Panel	Hear multiple experts discuss a topic area, moderated by questions from the audience
Interactive	An opportunity to engage with leading organisations in the field
Careers	Gain valuable practical skills and work to solve real-world problems with fellow attendees

## EVENT SCHEDULE

### Day 1 — 2/Aug (AEST)

Session 1	Opening Cremony	
Session 2	Panel   <b>Rethinking National Security and Foreign Policy</b>	
Session 3	Seminar   <b>Building your Professional Brand Through LinkedIn</b>	
Session 4	Panel   <b>Localising Positive Peace</b>	
Session 5	'Leaders and Learners' — Insights from the Acting US Consul-General	
Session 6	Seminar   <b>The QUAD in a Multipolar World</b>	In Conversation With   <b>Former Chief Negotiator Dr. Christian Pauletto</b>

Evening Social Events



## Day 2 — 3/Aug (AEST)

Session 1	Seminar   <b>The U.S. Biden Administration's Indo-Pacific Strategy</b>	Interactive   <b>Cyber Conflict</b>
Session 2	In Conversation With   <b>Private Governance and the International Political Economy</b>	
Session 3	In Conversation With   <b>The Future of Elections</b>	Seminar   <b>Modern Slavery</b>
Session 4	Seminar   <b>Australian Media Politics</b>	
Session 5	Simulation   <b>Australian Media Politics</b>	Careers   <b>Working for an NGO</b>
Session 6	In Conversation With   <b>The Future of Citizen-Led Civic Leadership</b>	

### Evening Social Events

## Day 3 — 4/Aug (AEST)

Session 1	Panel   <b>Climate Anxiety and the Invisible Impacts of the Climate Crisis</b>	
Session 2	In Conversation With   <b>The Future of Atrocity Risk and Prevention</b>	In Conversation With   <b>Brian Wong</b>



Session 3	Seminar   <b>Far-Right Extremism</b>	Careers   <b>OSINT in Geopolitics Research</b>	Interactive   <b>Model United Nations</b>
Session 4	Panel   <b>Australian Defence Policy</b>		
Session 5	Careers   <b>Defence Panel</b>		

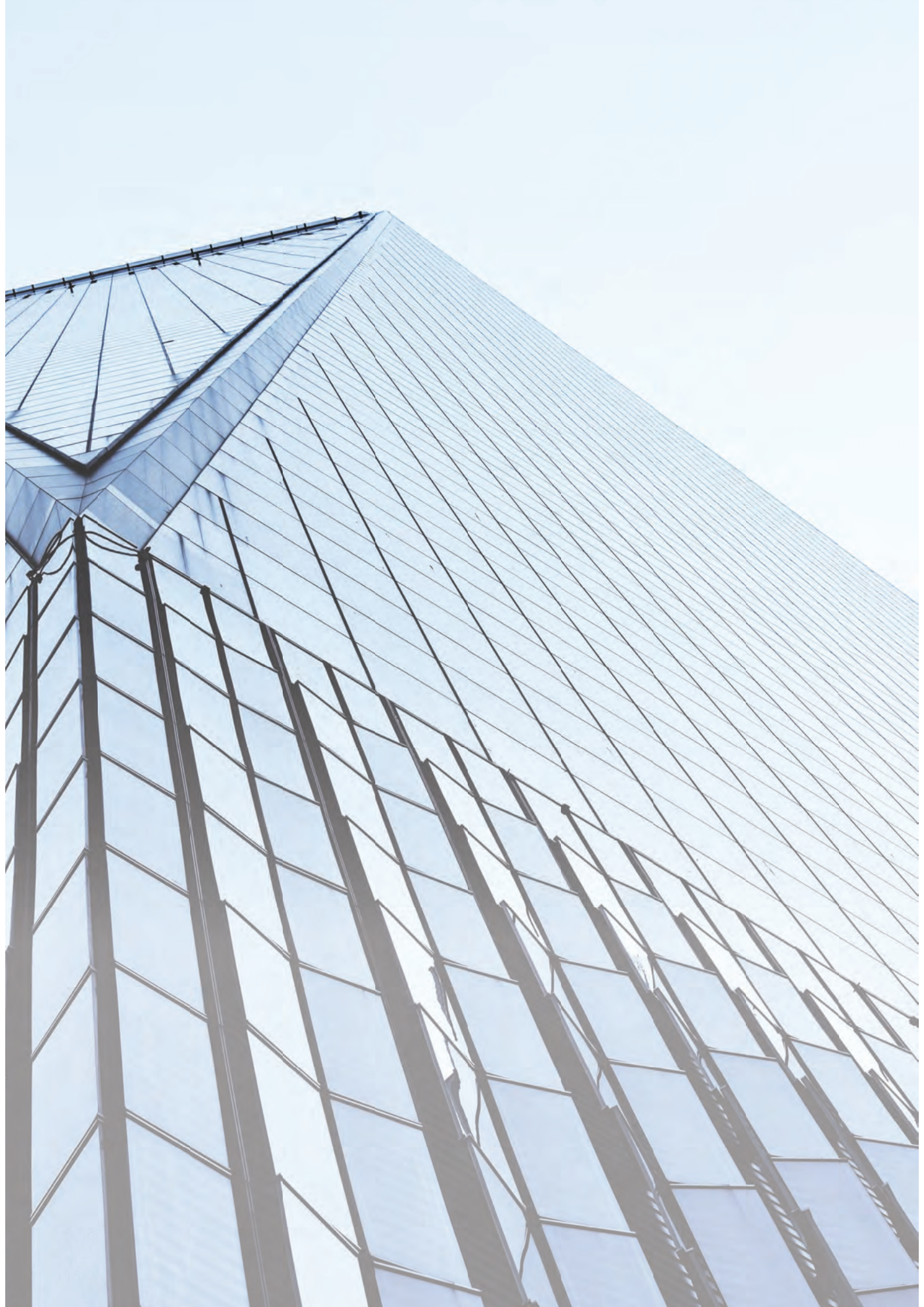
### GIR Symposium - Trivia Night

### Day 4 — 5/Aug (AEST)

Session 1	Panel   <b>Gender and Security</b>	In Conversation With   <b>Maritime Piracy</b>	Interactive   <b>Pandemic Response Simulation</b>
Session 2	Seminar   <b>Migration, Inequality, Statelessness, and Asylum</b>	Seminar   <b>Conflict in the South China Sea</b>	
Session 3	In Conversation With   <b>The Future of Space</b>		
Session 4	Careers   <b>Australian Public Service</b>		
Session 5	Closing Ceremony		

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# Day 1 — 2/Aug/2021

## Session 1

10:00 - 11:00am (AEST)   9:30am - 10:30am (ACST)   8:00am - 9:00am (AWST)

### Opening Ceremony

Our Opening Ceremony will proudly welcome you all to the inaugural GIR Symposium. It will feature opening remarks from Nikita Papastamatis, the event director of the GIR Symposium; Dr. Stewart Jackson, the current head of the University of Sydney's Department of Government & International Relations; Mark Scott AO, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sydney; and a keynote address delivered by Dr. Gorana Grgic, a lecturer at the Department of Government and International Relations and the United States Studies Centre of the University of Sydney.

This session will also provide some key information about how to make the most of this GIR Symposium.



**Nikita Papastamatis**  
Event Director;  
GIR Symposium



**Dr. Stewart Jackson**  
Head; Department of  
Govt. and IR,  
University of Sydney



**Mark Scott**  
Vice Chancellor,  
University of Sydney



**Dr. Gorana Grgic**  
Lecturer; Department of  
Govt. and IR & United  
States Studies Centre,  
University of Sydney

# Day 1 — 2/Aug/2021

LOWY  
INSTITUTE

## Session 2

11:15am - 12:15pm (AEST) 10:45am - 11:45am (ACST) 9:15am - 10:15am (AWST)

### Panel | Rethinking National Security and Foreign Policy

The view of the world from Australia looks very different in 2021. Concerns about pandemics, extreme weather and economic downturn have overtaken what we might consider to be traditional security threats of terrorism and nuclear warfare. In Australia, there is no area of domestic or foreign policy without a national security angle – from education or environmental policy to the economy or aid – Canberra is thinking about national security.

In the context of great power competition and the global pandemic, please join experts from the Lowy Institute for a panel discussion about national security and foreign policy for Australia, the Pacific Islands and the broader region.



**Alexandre Dayant**

Research Fellow;  
Pacific Islands Program,  
Lowy Institute



**Dr. Jennifer Hsu**

Research Fellow;  
Public Opinion & Foreign  
Policy, Lowy Institute



**Natasha Kassam**

Director;  
Public Opinion & Foreign  
Policy, Lowy Institute



**Alyssa Leng**

Research Associate;  
Power & Diplomacy  
Program, Lowy Institute



# Day 1 — 2/Aug/2021



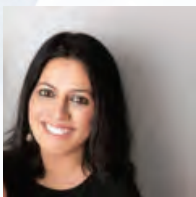
## Session 3

12:20 - 1:20pm (AEST)    11:50am - 12:50pm (ACST)    10:20 - 11:20am (AWST)

### Workshop | **Building your Professional Brand Through LinkedIn**

We want who you are to align with what you do, and LinkedIn is a first step to help you get there. Join this session to learn about our best practice recommendations for building an all-star profile that tells your professional story. You will understand how to optimise your LinkedIn profile by updating your photo, summary, skills, and endorsements.

We will also discuss the best practices when reaching out to key contacts and how establish lasting connections and finally how to boost your existing skill set by leveraging LinkedIn Learning.



**Poorva Bhardwaj**  
Senior Customer  
Success Manager;  
LinkedIn



# Day 1 — 2/Aug/2021



## Session 4

1:30 - 2:30pm (AEST)    1:00 - 2:00pm (ACST)    11:30am - 12:30pm (AWST)

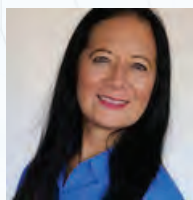
### Panel | Localising Positive Peace

The Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) is an independent, non-partisan, and non-profit think tank dedicated to developing metrics to analyse peace and quantify its economic value. We do this by developing global and national indices, calculating the economic cost of violence, analysing country risk and understanding Positive Peace.

Patricia Garcia, IEP Partnership Development Manager will introduce the concept of Positive Peace, why is Positive Peace different and activating Positive Peace at the community level with examples of IEP's Positive Peace workshops, projects and interventions. These workshops have facilitated an ever-widening global network of peace-building professionals. IEP's peace education and training activities, which include the Positive Peace Academy and the IEP Ambassador Programme are designed to build young people's leadership skills and advance their role as peace and resilience builders. Two Panel Speakers, Memphis Bourne Blue and Alis Tufenkchyan, who are University of Sydney alumni, will talk about their experiences and insights from their internship with IEP.



**Memphis Bourne Blue**  
Institute of Economics  
and Peace



**Patricia Garcia AO**  
Partnership Development  
Manager; Institute of Economics  
and Peace



**Alis Tufenkchyan**  
Institute of Economics  
and Peace

Session Recording: <https://youtu.be/i9k9777tAvk>



# Day 1 — 2/Aug/2021

## Session 5

2:45 - 3:45pm (AEST)

2:15 - 3:15pm (ACST)

12:45 - 1:45pm (AWST)

### **‘Leaders and Learners’ — Insights from the Acting U.S. Consul-General**

Acting U.S. Consul-General Elizabeth Power will be giving her insights and experiences of life as a diplomat and the lessons she has learned. Centred around the Symposium's theme of ‘Learners today, Leaders tomorrow’, attendees will have a rare chance to hear from a highly successful career diplomat whose experiences have spanned the world.

Structured as a conversational interview in the first part and then Q&A to finish, this is an event not to be missed.



**Elizabeth Power**

Acting U.S. Consul-General;  
U.S Consulate General Sydney



## Day 1 – 2/Aug/2021

### Session 6 (Track 1)

4:00 - 5:00pm (AEST)

3:30 - 4:30pm (ACST)

2:00 - 3:00pm (AWST)

### Seminar | **The QUAD in a Multipolar World**

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD, also known as the QUAD) is a strategic dialogue between the United States, Japan, Australia and India that is maintained by talks between member countries since its initiation in 2007. This session would, such, focus on different poles in a multipolar world and Raison d'etre for the Indo-Pacific. The session would also stress on the advent of QUAD and the reasons for a QUAD-Plus. There would also be a further discussion about multipolar Asia; a *sine qua non* for the multipolar world.



**Dr. Mohan Kumar**

Dean; International Affairs &  
Global Initiatives,  
O.P. Jindal Global University



# Day 1 — 2/Aug/2021

## Session 6 (Track 2)

4:00 - 5:00pm (AEST)

3:30 - 4:30pm (ACST)

2:00 - 3:00pm (AWST)

### In Conversation With | **Former Chief Negotiator Dr. Christian Pauletto**

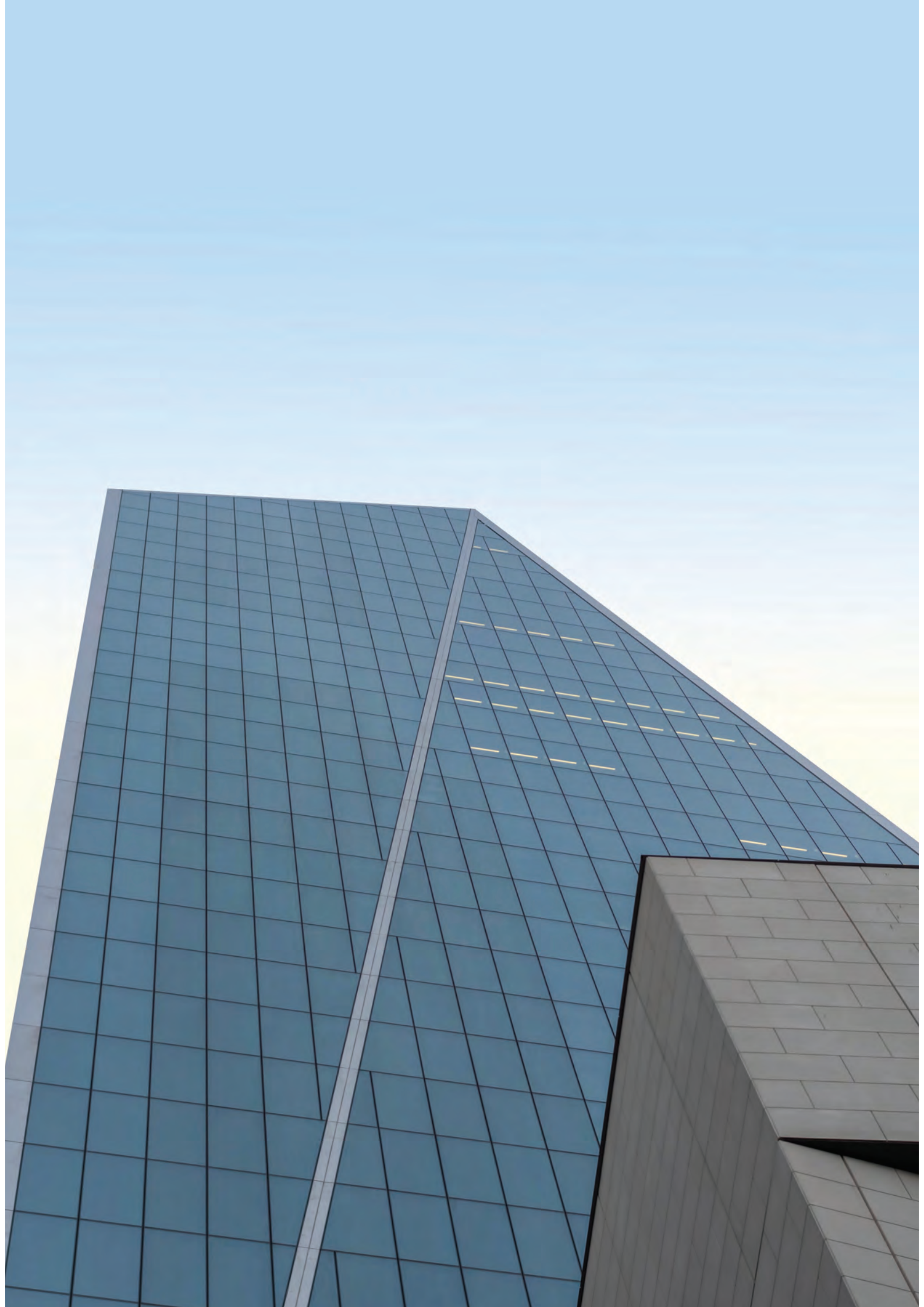
A career in international negotiations seems fascinating, and truly it is. However, there are hosts of misconceptions regarding how to get there, what one may expect, and what it means on a personal level. In a nutshell, will I like it or not? Should I do it or not?

Drawing from a long and distinguished career in international relations spanning over 30 years, Professor Pauletto will be sharing his professional expertise on working within the realm of international negotiations.



**Dr. Christian Pauletto**  
Associate Professor;  
International University  
in Geneva (IUG)





## Day 2 — 3/Aug/2021

### Session 1 (Track 1)

10:00 - 11:00am (AEST)    9:30am - 10:30am (ACST)    8:00am - 9:00am (AWST)

#### Seminar | **The U.S. Biden Administration's Indo-Pacific Strategy**

Taking a look at the past, present, and future of America's approach to the Indo-Pacific region — this lecture will examine how we got to the current moment; examine the emerging contours of President Biden's approach to the region; and finally, think through where we are heading, and, critically, what big questions are still yet to be answered.



**Dr. Charles Edel**

Non-Resident Senior Fellow;  
United States Studies Centre,  
University of Sydney



## Day 2 — 3/Aug/2021

### Session 1 (Track 2)

10:00am - 12:15pm (AEST)    9:30 - 11:45am (ACST)    8:00 - 10:15am (AWST)

### Simulation | **Cyber Conflict (Briefing & Execution)**

Attendees will fill the shoes of leading US policymakers as they navigate the nuances and difficulties of adequately responding to cyber crises, a relatively novel international security threat, without the guidance of pre-existing policy or historical frameworks. The interactive simulation will present attendees with a unique opportunity to negotiate and reason with peers as they strive to reach a consensus that accounts for a range of distinct yet equally pressing individualised interests while responding to the unprecedented transnational cyber-attack.



**Dr. James Der Derian**  
Director; Centre of  
International Security Studies,  
University of Sydney



**Lola Trajkovich**  
University of Sydney

## Day 2 — 3/Aug/2021

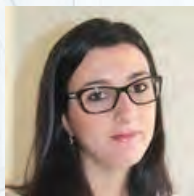
### Session 2 (Track 1)

11:15am - 12:15pm (AEST) 10:45am - 11:45am (ACST) 9:15am - 10:15am (AWST)

#### Panel | **Private Governance and the International Political Economy**

Business increasingly operates like government and government increasingly operates like business; where do accountability, transparency, and even democracy, lie between the two?

Dr. Ainsley Elbra and Associate Professor John Mikler will be jointly presenting their expertise on the topic of private governance and the International Political Economy.



**Dr. Ainsley Elbra**  
Researcher;  
University of Sydney



**Dr. John Mikler**  
Associate Professor;  
University of Sydney



## Day 2 — 3/Aug/2021

### Session 3 (Track 1)

1:30 - 2:30pm (AEST)    1:00 - 2:00pm (ACST)    11:30am - 12:30pm (AWST)

#### In Conversation With | **The Future of Elections**

The end of the Cold War saw liberal democratic norms expand across the world. Changes in the global economy and its politics has seen this trend reverse in recent years. Faith in government has declined and there has been a rise in nationalistic and populist leaders, even in traditional democracies. In this climate, what is the future of elections?

Antony Green's session will explore this question to provide attendees with a more nuanced understanding of what the future of elections will be given current global political trends.



**Antony Green**

Chief Elections Analyst;  
Australian Broadcasting  
Corporation

## Day 2 — 3/Aug/2021



### Session 3 (Track 2)

1:30 - 2:30pm (AEST)    1:00 - 2:00pm (ACST)    11:30am - 12:30pm (AWST)

#### Seminar | **Modern Slavery (with SD Strategies)**

This one-hour interactive workshop will provide an overview of modern slavery – what it is, where it occurs and why it is increasing. The workshop will outline key modern slavery risk factors including geography, industry sector and commodity and explore specific vulnerabilities associated with people becoming trapped in modern slavery globally.

Participants will be encouraged to identify the key modern slavery risk in their own country and take part in building a Miro Board to capture risks and vulnerabilities prevalent in the jurisdictions represented at the Symposium.

We will explore business drivers for better assessing and addressing modern slavery risks – including the changing global legislative landscape, customer and investor pressure and reputational impacts. Case studies will provide participants with an understanding of what actions companies are taking to manage and mitigate modern slavery risks in their operations and supply chains.



**Richard Birdsley**  
Innovation Lead;  
SD Strategies



**Sonja Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer;  
SD Strategies



## Day 2 — 3/Aug/2021

### Session 4

2:45 - 3:45pm (AEST)

2:15 - 3:15pm (ACST)

12:45 - 1:45pm (AWST)

### Seminar | **Australian Media Politics**

An interactive lecture on the future of the news media in Australia. This lecture examines the paradox of Australia's media-politics field: a country with a robust democratic system, but featuring one of the most concentrated media ownership systems in the democratic world. What does this mean for the future, and what can be done about it?



**Dr. Peter Chen**

Senior Lecturer;  
University of Sydney

## Day 2 — 3/Aug/2021

### Session 5 (Track 1)

4:00 - 5:00pm (AEST)

3:30 - 4:30pm (ACST)

2:00 - 3:00pm (AWST)

### Simulation | **Australian Media Politics**

A practical simulation of interest group politics in the field of media policy. Guided by moderators, teams will take the role of public and private actors as they consider issues facing the Australian news media, and policy responses that may shape the future performance of the news media.



**Dr. Peter Chen**  
Senior Lecturer;  
University of Sydney



## Day 2 — 3/Aug/2021

### Session 5 (Track 2)

4:00 - 5:00pm (AEST)

3:30 - 4:30pm (ACST)

2:00 - 3:00pm (AWST)

### Careers | **Working for an NGO**

In this session, Simon Henderson will outline the challenges and opportunities of working in NGOs in Australia and overseas, and the fulfilling career it can provide. In particular, he will focus on what it is like working in human rights organisations in advocacy roles, outlining the types of skills that are valued in the sector and the opportunities available. Simon will also speak to the differences in working in a small NGO with just a handful of staff, right up to a global INGO with thousands of staff.

As part of the session, Simon will speak to examples of advocacy work he has undertaken throughout his career, such as; seeking changes in laws to support marriage equality, advocating against extradition proposals that led to the mass protests in Hong Kong in 2019, to calling for targeted human rights sanctions reforms through Magnitsky style laws, and more. In doing so, he will outline the various obstacles he has faced, the rewarding experiences and some tips on how to pursue a career in the NGO sector.



**Simon Henderson**

Head of Policy;  
Save the Children Australia

## Day 2 — 3/Aug/2021

### Session 6

5:30 - 6:30pm (AEST)

5:00 - 6:00pm (ACST)

3:30 - 4:30pm (AWST)

### In Conversation With | **The Future of Citizen-Led Civic Leadership**

‘Global Politics are all Local.’

Join HY William Chan, Convenor of the Sydney Global Shapers Hub, in conversation with Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney, Jess Scully. The discussion will revolve around a number of case studies that are explored in Jess’ recently published book *Glimpses of Utopia: Real Ideas for a Fairer World*. Join this session to hear some incredible insights into what the future of politics might hold.



**HY William Chan**

Curator; Global Shapers,  
World Economic Forum



**Cr. Jess Scully**

Deputy Lord Mayor;  
City of Sydney







# Day 3 — 4/Aug/2021

## Session 1

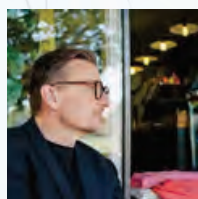
10:00 - 11:00am (AEST)    9:30am - 10:30am (ACST)    8:00am - 9:00am (AWST)

### Panel | **Climate Anxiety and the Invisible Impacts of the Climate Crisis**

More and more regularly we are experiencing extreme temperatures, freak weather events as well as the slow but persistent degradation of natural environments, which has left the non-human world on the brink of collapse. The physical ramifications of these stresses are clear; however, we often overlook the invisible impacts that living in a climate changed world has on individuals, and on our wider global community. This panel will explore climate anxiety and some of the unseen influences the climate crisis has on our everyday lives.



**Dr. Robert MacNeil**  
Sydney Environment  
Institute,  
University of Sydney



**Paul Rhodes**  
Sydney Environment  
Institute,  
University of Sydney



**Dr. Blanche Verlie**  
Sydney Environment  
Institute,  
University of Sydney



**Gemma Viney**  
Sydney Environment  
Institute,  
University of Sydney



## Day 3 — 4/Aug/2021

### Session 2 (Track 1)

11:15am - 12:15pm (AEST) 10:45am - 11:45am (ACST) 9:15am - 10:15am (AWST)

### In Conversation With | Rhodes Scholar Brian Wong

Have you ever wondered what your politics and international relations degree can do for you? This conversation with Rhodes Scholar and prolific political commentator Brian Wong will prove that pursuing academia need not be confined or boring, through explorations on how to seize opportunities while still studying, how to make your own opportunities, and the importance of tomorrow's leaders having constructive discussions about the problems facing society today.



**Brian Wong**  
University of Oxford

## Day 3 — 4/Aug/2021

### Session 2 (Track 2)

11:15am - 12:15pm (AEST) 10:45am - 11:45am (ACST) 9:15am - 10:15am (AWST)

#### In Conversation With | **Future of Atrocity Risk and Prevention**

The seminar will present innovative new research from two early career researchers.

Sascha Nanlohy will present on his research investigating the role of external powers in genocide and the role of military assistance. He will reflect on the importance of future leaders understanding this dynamic given increased risks of mass atrocities stemming from rising authoritarianism, great power competition and the climate crisis.

Rhiannon Neilsen will then examine the role of ‘humanitarian technologies’ – such as satellite imagery, mobile apps, and crowd-source mapping – in the context of preventing atrocity crimes in the 21st century. Whilst not dismissing the importance of existing humanitarian technologies, her paper gives thought to how more proactive uses of cyber-capabilities might be used to protect populations. To do so, she introduces what she calls ‘cyber-humanitarian interventions’ that aim to disrupt perpetrators’ means and motivations for atrocities.



**Sascha Nanlohy**  
PhD Candidate,  
University of Sydney



**Rhiannon Neilsen**  
Scientia Doctoral Candidate,  
UNSW Canberra,  
Australian Defence Force Academy



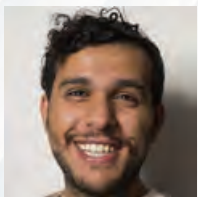
## Day 3 — 4/Aug/2021

### Session 3 (Track 1)

1:15 - 3:45pm (AEST)    12:45 - 3:15pm (ACST)    11:15am - 1:45pm (AWST)

### Interactive | **Model United Nations**

In the Model United Nations, you'll represent the delegate of your assigned country in a simulation of the upcoming COP26 Climate Summit! With the guidance of the Chair, you'll follow the debate procedure outlined in the handbook and instructional video to develop a Resolution to climate change that strengthens existing state obligations under the Paris Agreement. Remember, you don't have to agree with your fellow delegates, but this is an excellent chance to hone your diplomacy and public speaking skills to develop a succinct, written Resolution that safeguards the future stability of our climate.



**Joshua Karras**

Executive Manager;  
United Nations Association  
of Australia (NSW)



**Sydney University  
United Nations Society  
(SUUNS)**

## Day 3 — 4/Aug/2021

### Session 3 (Track 2)

1:30 - 2:30pm (AEST)    1:00 - 2:00pm (ACST)    11:30am - 12:30pm (AWST)

#### Careers | OSINT in Geopolitics Research

GSI aims to equip emerging talent in geopolitics, International security and affairs with the skills to make sense of a world where breakneck transformations to critical systems send shockwaves across economies and societies.

This session will give students an overview of approaches to produce original insights into contemporary issues. In addition to qualitative methods, the workshop will also cover basic data analytics and open source intelligence (OSINT) skills.



**GLOBAL SECURITY INITIATIVE** ///



## Day 3 — 4/Aug/2021

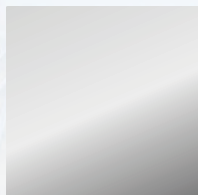
### Session 3 (Track 3)

1:30 - 2:30pm (AEST)    1:00 - 2:00pm (ACST)    11:30am - 12:30pm (AWST)

#### Seminar | Far Right Extremism in Australia

Far-right extremism is a growing threat in Australia. The proliferation of alternative messaging apps and social networking platforms have introduced new challenges for combating radicalisation and violent extremism.

In Australia, policy responses remain embedded within a securitised framework. This leaves Australia at risk of being left behind in the global fight against far-right extremism, as our allies adopt whole-of-society approaches focusing on community resilience.



**Jordan McSwiney**  
PhD Candidate,  
University of Sydney

## Day 3 — 4/Aug/2021

### Session 4 (Track 1)

2:45 - 3:45pm (AEST)

2:15 - 3:15pm (ACST)

12:45 - 1:45pm (AWST)

### Seminar | **Australian Defence Policy**

A Geostrategic SWOT for the nation: Heightened great power contestation, looming environmental catastrophe and a spectrum of governance challenges point to a challenging future for Australia and the region. Come along to consider Australia's regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.



**Dr. John Blaxland**

Professor;  
Australian National University



## Day 3 — 4/Aug/2021

### Session 5

4:00 - 5:00pm (AEST)

3:30 - 4:30pm (ACST)

2:00 - 3:00pm (AWST)

### Careers | Defence Panel

Please join this interactive discussion to engage with representatives from Defence's Strategy, Policy, and Industry (SP&I) Group. The panellists represent four Divisions across SP&I Group: International Policy, Strategic Policy, Contestability and Defence Industry Policy.

SP&I are intrinsic to Defence's Strategic Centre. SP&I are integral to implementing the Government's "Strategy, Capability, and Reform" agenda. SP&I contest enterprise decisions and advice to government to ensure quality outcomes and optimise the impact and benefits of government's \$575 billion investment in Defence.

SP&I devise and apply strategy to give effect to government intent. They set the policy frameworks that govern ADF operations and Defence international engagement. SP&I guide industry to deliver capability for the ADF and national economic growth.



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**





## Day 4 — 5/Aug/2021

### Session 1 (Track 1)

10:00 - 11:00am (AEST)    9:30am - 10:30am (ACST)    8:00am - 9:00am (AWST)

#### Panel | Gender and Security

Jointly, Professor Laura Shepherd, Dr. Lina Abirafeh, Dr. Keshab Giri and Dr. Nicole Wegner will be sharing their expertise on the Importance of Gender to the Future Peace and Security Leaders of GIR.

This panel will consider the gendered dimensions of conflict, peacekeeping and other security operations, considering the disparate impacts on men and women, and the long-term implications of conflicts on societies.



**Dr. Lina Abirafeh**

Executive Director;  
Arab Institute for Women,  
Lebanese American  
University



**Dr. Keshab Giri**

Lecturer;  
Council on International  
Educational Exchange



**Dr. Laura Shepherd**

Professor;  
International Relations,  
University of Sydney



**Dr. Nicole Wegner**

Postdoctoral Research  
Fellow;  
University of Sydney

## Day 4 — 5/Aug/2021

### Session 1 (Track 2)

10:00 - 11:00am (AEST)    9:30am - 10:30am (ACST)    8:00am - 9:00am (AWST)

#### In Conversation With | **Maritime Piracy**

Though piracy is undoubtedly important to the field of International Relations, it is an issue with not a lot of expertise. Discussions on piracy tie into issues of governance in conflict-affected spaces, as well as state institutions and formal networks. We need the future leaders of GIR to not only understand modern-day piracy, but also what future battles in this area will be.



**Dr. Justin Hastings**

Professor; International Relations  
and Comparative Politics,  
University of Sydney



**Dr. Sarah Phillips**

Associate Professor; Department  
of Government and International  
Relations,  
University of Sydney



## Day 4 — 5/Aug/2021

### Session 1 (Track 3)

10:00am - 2:30pm (AEST)    9:30am - 2:00pm (ACST)    8:00am - 12:30pm (AWST)

#### Interactive | **Pandemic Response Simulation**

This session will involve a simulation set in today's covid-19-infected world, noting that there is no reason that another, similar outbreak could not happen again tomorrow, meaning the governments, companies and international institutions of the world would be contending with not one, but two viral or bacterial outbreaks at a similar scale simultaneously. Indeed, as we can see with the Delta variant, COVID-19 itself might mutate in ways that make it significantly more lethal and contagious. Plagues have played a pivotal role in history, as told by, among others, Thucydides' telling of events during the fifth-century BC Peloponnesian War, Barbara Tuchman's account of the 14th Century Black Death, or Samuel Pepys' description of the Great Plague of London in 1665. These stories – and, indeed, the fictional *La Peste*, by Albert Camus – give an indication of how bad things can get (hint: we are nowhere near it – yet).

Participants will take part in groups representing affected states and other actors as a new *peste* breaks over the top of COVID-19. What policies will you recommend? How will you decide among them? How will you negotiate with other groups?



**Dr. Ken Fraser**  
Lecturer;  
University of Sydney

## Day 4 — 5/Aug/2021

### Session 2 (Track 1)

11:15am - 12:15pm (AEST) 10:45am - 11:45am (ACST) 9:15am - 10:15am (AWST)

#### Seminar | **Migration, Inequality, Statelessness, and Asylum**

In this session, attendees will have the opportunity to engage with Dr. Anna Boucher and Dr. Mary Crock, two of our University of Sydney academics who have spent many years researching and publishing on Migration, Inequality, Statelessness, and Asylum. Dr. Boucher. and Dr Crock, will explore these issues, as tinged by the impacts of COVID-19 — which have served only to exacerbate the conditions of these communities.



**Dr. Anna Boucher**

Associate Professor;  
Public Policy and Comparative  
Politics, University of Sydney



**Dr. Mary Crock**

Director; Sydney  
Centre of International Law,  
University of Sydney



## Day 4 — 5/Aug/2021

### Session 2 (Track 2)

11:15am - 12:15pm (AEST) 10:45am - 11:45am (ACST) 9:15am - 10:15am (AWST)

#### Seminar | **Conflict in the South China Sea**

Over the last three years, China has moved on from its completed island building and militarisation campaign in the South China Sea, which is largely complete. Its focus has shifted to using those island bases to project power short of war — in the so-called “grey zone” — against its neighbours. Dozens of China Coast Guard and hundreds of Chinese maritime militia boats forward deployed to the Spratly Islands now patrol the waters of the Philippines, Malaysia, and Vietnam continuously, steadily forcing civilian actors out of contested waters.

In this session, Gregory Poling will explore how remote sensing technologies reveal this activity and what the future holds in the South China Sea.



**Gregory Poling**

Senior Fellow for Southeast Asia;  
Centre for Strategic and  
International Studies

## Day 4 — 5/Aug/2021

### Session 3 (Track 1)

1:30 - 2:30pm (AEST)    1:00 - 2:00pm (ACST)    11:30am - 12:30pm (AWST)

#### In Conversation With | **The Future of Space**

This is an exclusive ‘in conversation with’ event featuring the CEO of the Space Industry Association of Australia: James Brown. The session will consider the geopolitical dimensions of space and future developments in space policy, particularly in relations to Australia.



**James Brown**

Chief Executive Officer;  
Space Industry Association  
of Australia



## Day 4 — 5/Aug/2021

### Session 4

2:45 - 3:45pm (AEST)

2:15 - 3:15pm (ACST)

12:45 - 1:45pm (AWST)

### Careers | **Australian Public Service**

Today we are joined by representatives from the Department of Home Affairs, and the Department of Defence. Representatives from each department will talk about their role in the Australian Public Service, and the opportunities for graduates of government and international relations degrees who are interested in fostering a stable, secure and prosperous Australia.

## Day 4 — 5/Aug/2021

### Session 5

4:00 - 5:00pm (AEST)

3:30 - 4:30pm (ACST)

2:00 - 3:00pm (AWST)

### Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony will provide attendees the opportunity to reflect on the educational, professional, and networking skills and experiences they have gained over the week.

In accordance with our aim of empowering students to become the learners of today, and leaders of tomorrow, Steve Killelea, the founder of the Institute of Economics and Peace, will conclude the Symposium with a keynote address.



**Steve Killelea AM**

Founder,  
Institute of Economics  
and Peace



**Nikita Papastamatis**

Event Director;  
GIR Symposium







# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

A group of students who have worked tirelessly to plan and produce this event since August 2020.

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## THE OPERATIONS TEAM

A group of students overseeing event operations to ensure the smooth conduction of the Symposium.

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