

Concepts of national security workshop: Australian and international perspectives

Australian Policy and History Network, Deakin University & National Security College, ANU

25 November 2020

How has the idea of national security evolved over the last 100 years? Who tells us how to feel secure/insecure and how has this changed over time? And how do Australian perspectives, contemporary and historical, compare with other conceptions and architectures of national security?

This workshop seeks to contextualise concepts of national security in different temporal and geographical contexts, with an emphasis on its significance in Australia. It explores the history of national security as an idea :with the assistance of Eckart Conze, (Phillips Marburg); ways in which it has been deployed to secure some more than others, including perspectives from the age of digital information by Sylvester Johnson (Virginia Tech); different modes of national security in practice; ideas of Australian national security beyond those defined in Canberra; the rise of cyber-security as a branch of national security; and reflections from the Office of National Intelligence.

Others who are presenting or participating in panel discussions include Ian Kemish AM (UQ), Rory Medcalf (ANU), David Ekbladh (Tufts) Matt McDonald (UQ), Joan Beaumont (ANU/Deakin), Sue Thompson (ANU), David Lowe (Deakin), Carolyn Holbrook (Deakin) and Peter Edwards (Deakin).

The workshop will be a hybrid physical-online one, with a physical focus at the ANU, organised by Sue Thompson, and Zoom and recorded contributions.

Program details are below.

To register for attendance, [click here](#).

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900-1030 am

Introduction, Sue Thompson and Opening, Carolyn Miller, (Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister and Cabinet)

The History of National Security as an Idea

Keynote and Panel Discussion

Recorded keynote by Eckart Conze (Philipps University Marburg)

Panel discussion by Jon Piccini (ACU), William Stolz (ANU), Matt McDonald (UQ), Joan Beaumont (ANU/Deakin)

1030-1100 MORNING TEA

1100-1200 noon

Who are we securing in the digital age? Who are we watching?

Keynote and panel discussion

Sylvester Johnson (Virginia Tech, Blacksburg)

Panel discussion by Frank Bongiorno (ANU), Matthew Ricketson (Deakin), Mia Martin Hobbs (Melbourne/Deakin)

1200-100 pm

National Security in Practice: perspectives from the past

David Ekbladh (Tufts, Boston) 'The Longer Swing: Rethinking Security and Strategy in the US during the Low Dishonest Decade of the 1930s'

Peter Edwards (Deakin/ANU), 'The role of the intelligence agencies'

Carolyn Holbrook (Deakin), 'National Security and Public Health in Australia: An Historical Perspective'

LUNCH 1.00-1.45 pm

1.45-2.30 pm

Ian Kemish AM (UQ) **Changing notions of national security, A practitioner's perspective**

2.30-3.30 pm

National Security Beyond Canberra

Sue Thompson (ANU), 'Regional Co-operation and the Evolution of Southeast Asian Security'

Peter Ferguson (Deakin), 'Resilience, Biopolitics and the Logistics of Security Debate in Critical Security Studies'

Rory Medcalf (NSC-ANU), 'Reflections'

330-400 pm

AFTERNOON TEA

4.00-4.45 pm

Perspectives on the Australian history of cyber security

Ian Warren (Deakin), 'Legacies of National Security Developments from the 1970s'

4.45-5.00 pm

Concluding Remarks

David Lowe