



Cheng-Chwee KUIK, Ph.D.

Professor of International Relations

Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS)
National University of Malaysia (UKM)
43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.
Email: cckuik@gmail.com, kuik@ukm.edu.my

Nonresident Senior Fellow

Foreign Policy Institute (FPI)
Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
Johns Hopkins University

Nonresident Scholar

Carnegie China

[Google Scholar](#) h-index: 19

Citations: 2182

<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-6318-085X>

Areas of specialization: International relations, small-state alignment behavior, Asian security

KUIK Cheng-Chwee is Professor of International Relations at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), National University of Malaysia (UKM). He is concurrently a nonresident Senior Fellow at Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins SAIS and a non-resident Scholar, Carnegie China. Previously, he was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Princeton-Harvard “China and the World” Program and a Visiting Research Fellow at Oxford University. Professor Kuik’s research focuses on small-state foreign and defence policies, Asian security, and international relations. He serves as a member of the Consultative Council on Foreign Policy, Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2023-2024). Previously he served as Head of the Writing Team (2019-2020) for the Government of Malaysia’s inaugural *Defence White Paper*. Cheng-Chwee’s publications have appeared in such peer-reviewed journals as *International Affairs*, *Pacific Review*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Chinese Journal of International Politics*, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, and *Contemporary Southeast Asia*. Cheng-Chwee’s essay, “The Essence of Hedging”, won the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies’ Michael Leifer Memorial Prize. He is co-author (with David Lampton and Selina Ho) of *Rivers of Iron: Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia* (2020) and co-editor (with Alice Ba and Sueo Sudo) of *Institutionalizing East Asia* (2016). His current projects include: hedging in international relations, elite legitimation and foreign policy choices, and the host-country agency in connectivity cooperation. Cheng-Chwee serves on the editorial boards of *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *Asian Politics and Policy*, *International Journal of Asian Studies*, and *East Asian Policy*. He holds an M.Litt. from the University of St. Andrews and a PhD from Johns Hopkins University.

Education

Johns Hopkins University, SAIS, *Washington DC* (Sept 2003 – May 2010) ▪ Ph.D. ▪ Distinction in Dissertation ▪ Committee Members: Karl Jackson, David Lampton, Francis Fukuyama

St. Andrews University, *Fife, Scotland, United Kingdom* (September 1997 – September 1998) ▪ M. Litt. in International Security Studies ▪ Distinction in Dissertation (Thesis)

Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), *Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia* (July 1992 – November 1995) ▪ Bachelor of Public Administration ▪ Distinction in Undergraduate Thesis (in Malay)

Awards (Selected)

- Newton Advanced Fellowship, British Academy & Akademi Sains Malaysia ▪ 2016-2018
- Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program Postdoctoral Fellowship ▪ 2013/2014
- William and Marie-Daniele Zartman Fellowship, Johns Hopkins SAIS ▪ 2009
- Fulbright Graduate Study Scholarship ▪ 2003/2004 & 2004/2005
- British High Commissioner's Chevening Award ▪ 1997/1998

Publications (Selected) <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-6318-085X>

- 2024 “**Southeast Asian Responses to the U.S.-China Tech Competition: Hedging and Economy-Security Tradeoffs**”, *Journal of Chinese Political Science* (forthcoming).
- 2023 “[Malaysian Conceptions of International Order: Paradoxes of Small-State Pragmatism](#)”, *International Affairs* 99 (4), pp. 1477-1497.
- 2023 (with Zikri Rosli) “[Laos-China Infrastructure Cooperation: Legitimation and the Limits of Host-country Agency](#)”, *Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies* (November), DOI: 10.1080/24761028.2023.2274236
- 2023 “[Navigating the Narratives of Indo-Pacific: ‘Rules’, ‘Like-mindedness’, and ‘De-risking’ in the Eyes of Southeast Asia](#)”, *Georgetown Journal of Asian Affairs* 9 (August), pp. 51-56.
- 2023 “Advancing ASEAN-Centric Connectivity Cooperation: Inclusivity, Impartiality, Integrativity” in *Towards Open and Inclusive Regionalism*, edited by Sarah Teo, Rocky Intan, and Joel Ng (Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta), pp. 40-45.
- 2023 “Discussant Comments”, in *India in Asia: Deeper Engagement*, edited by Rakesh Mohan (New Delhi, CSEP), pp. 128-130.
- 2023 “[Active Neutrality: Malaysia in the Middle of U.S.-China Competition](#)”, United States Institute of Peace, October 11, 2023.

- 2023 ["Binary Trap Threatens ASEAN's Hedging Role,"](#) *East Asia Forum*, August 1, 2023.
- 2023 (with Matt Ferchen) ["EU-ASEAN Trade, Investment, and Connectivity Cooperation"](#), in Lizza Bomassi, ed., *Reimagining EU-ASEAN Relations: Challenges and Opportunities* (Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace).
- 2023 ["Southeast Asia Hedges Between Feasibility and Desirability,"](#) *East Asia Forum*, 4 July.
- 2023 (with Yew Meng Lai). ["Deference and Defiance in Malaysia's China Policy: Determinants of a Dualistic Diplomacy"](#), *International Journal of Asian Studies* (Cambridge University Press).
- 2023 (with Fikry Abd Rahman). ["ASEAN's Dialogue Mechanisms: Institutionalizing ASEAN Centrality"](#), in Jörn Dosch and Frederick Kliem, eds., *The Elgar Companion to ASEAN* (Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar), pp. 177-195
- 2022 **"Shades of Grey: Riskification and Hedging in the Indo-Pacific"**, *Pacific Review* 35.
- 2022 **"Hedging via Institutions: ASEAN-led Multilateralism in the Age of the Indo-Pacific"**, *Asian Journal of Peacebuilding* 10(2): 355-386.
- 2022 (with Chen-Dong Tso) **"Hedging in Non-Traditional Security: The Case of Vietnam's Disaster Response Cooperation"**, *Chinese Journal of International Politics*.
- 2022 **"Southeast Asian States and ASEAN"**, in David Shambaugh, ed., *The International Relations of Asia*, 3rd edition (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield), pp. 189-227.
- 2022 (with Paul Evans) **"ASEAN and Ukraine: Non-Alignment via Multi-Alignment"**, *TI Observer* 21: 23-29.
- 2022 (with Abdul Razak Ahmad) **"Southeast Asia-U.S. Relations in the Indo-Pacific Era"**, in Gilbert Rozman, ed., *Joint U.S.-Korea Academic Studies 2022* (Washington, DC: KEI).
- 2022 (with Abdul Razak Ahmad and Ayman Rashdan Wong) **"Malaysia and Northeast Asia: What Drives Small-State Forward Diplomacy"**, *Issues and Studies* 58(3).
- 2022 (with Thomas Daniel) **"Malaysia's Relations with the United States and China: Asymmetries (and Anxieties) Amplified"**, *Southeast Asian Affairs* 2022, pp. 211-231.
- 2022 **"Locating Host-Country Agency and Hedging in Infrastructure Cooperation"**, in Seth Schindler and Jessica DiCarlo, eds., *The Rise of the Infrastructure State: How US-China Rivalry Shapes Politics and Place Worldwide* (Bristol University Press), pp. 194-210.
- 2022 **"The Politics of Thailand-China Railway Cooperation: Domestic Determinants of Smaller State BRI Engagement"**, in Suthiphand Chirathivat, Buddhagarn Rutchatorn, Anupama Devendrakumar, eds., *China's Belt and Road Initiative in ASEAN* (Singapore: World Scientific), pp. 223-250.

- 2021 **“Elite Legitimation and the Agency of the Host Country: Evidence from Laos, Malaysia, and Thailand’s BRI Engagement”**, in Florian Schneider, ed., *Global Perspectives on the Belt and Road Initiative* (Amsterdam University Press), pp. 217-244.
- 2021 **“Getting Hedging Right: A Small State Perspective”**, *China International Strategy Review*, December, 1-16. *(SCOPUS-indexed)*
- 2021 (with Abdul Razak Ahmad) **“Malaysia’s Resilient (but Ambiguous) Partnership with the United States: The Dilemmas of Smaller States in the Indo-Pacific Era”**, *Asia Policy*, October, pp. 86-95.
- 2021 (with Abdul Razak Ahmad and Lai Yew Meng) **“PLA Overflight near Malaysian Airspace: A Precarious Provocation”**, *Fulcrum: Analysis on Southeast Asia*, June 30.
- 2021 **“Irresistible Inducement? Assessing China’s Belt and Road Initiative in Southeast Asia”**, Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)’s *Asia-Unbound*, June 15.
- 2021 **“Laos’ Enthusiastic Embrace of China’s Belt and Road Initiative”**, *Asian Perspective*, Vol. 45, No. 4, pp. 735-759. *(ISI-indexed)*
- 2021 **“Malaysia’s Fluctuating Engagement with China’s Belt and Road Initiative”**, *Asian Perspective* 45(2): 421-444.
- 2021 **“Asymmetry and Authority: Theorizing Southeast Asian Responses to China’s Belt and Road Initiative”**, *Asian Perspective* 45(2): 255-276.
- 2021 (with Lai Yew Meng and Amy Azuan Abdullah) **“Pulau Layang-Layang in Malaysia’s South China Sea Policy”**, *International Journal of China Studies* 12(2): 189-222.
- 2021 (with Lai Yew Meng) **“Structural Sources of Malaysia’s South China Sea Policy”**, *Australian Journal of International Affairs* 75(3).
- 2021 **“The Twin Chessboards of US-China Rivalry: Impact on Geostrategic Supply and Demand in Post-Pandemic Asia”**, *Asian Perspective* 45(1): 157-176.
- 2020 **“Hedging in Post-Pandemic Asia: What, How, and Why?”** *The Asan Forum: An Online Journal* (June 6).
- 2020 **“Connectivity and Gaps: The Bridging and Missed Links in China’s BRI in Southeast Asia”**, in Maria Adele Carrai, Jean-Christophe DeFraigne, and Jan Wouters, eds., *The Belt and Road and Global Governance* (Northampton, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing), pp. 76-95.
- 2020 (with David M. Lampton and Selina Ho) ***Rivers of Iron: Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia*** (University of California Press).
- 2020 **“Mapping Malaysia in the Evolving Indo-Pacific Construct”**, *CSCAP Regional Security Outlook 2020* (Canberra: Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific).

- 2019 (With BA Hamzah) "The Making of Defence White Paper", *New Straits Times* (Dec 7).
- 2018 "Keeping the Balance: Power Transitions Threaten ASEAN's Hedging Role", *East Asia Forum Quarterly*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (January-March), pp. 22-23.
- 2018 (With Alice Ba) **"Southeast Asia and China: Engagement and Constraint"**, in Alice D. Ba and Mark Beeson, eds., *Contemporary Southeast Asia: The Politics of Change, Contestation, and Adaptation*, 3rd edition (London: Palgrave), pp. 229-247.
- 2017 **"Explaining the Contradiction in China's South China Sea Policy"**, *China: An International Journal* 15(1): 163-186.
- 2016 **"How Do Weaker States Hedge? Unpacking ASEAN States' Alignment Behavior towards China,"** *Journal of Contemporary China* 25(100): 500-514.
- 2016 **"Malaysia between the United States and China: What do Weaker States Hedge Against?"** *Asian Politics and Policy* 8(1): 155-177.
- 2015 (With Gilbert Rozman) **"Light or Heavy Hedging: Positioning between China and the United States"**, in Gilbert Rozman, *Joint U.S.-Korea Academic Studies 2015*, Vol. 26 (Washington, DC: Korea Economic Institute of America), pp. 1-9.
- 2015 **"Variations on a (Hedging) Theme: Comparing ASEAN Core States' Alignment Behavior,"** in Gilbert Rozman, *Joint U.S.-Korea Academic Studies 2015*, Vol. 26 (Washington, DC: Korea Economic Institute of America), pp. 11-26.
- 2015 **"Malaysia's Balancing Act"**, *New York Times* (December 7), p. 8.
- 2015 **"Malaysia's Relations with Major and Middle Powers"**, *Observatoire Asie du Sud-est* (Paris: Asia Centre, Sciences Po).
- 2015 **"An Emerging 3rd Pillar in Asian Architecture? AIIB and Other China-led Initiatives"**, *Asia-Pacific Bulletin* 305, March 26 (Washington, DC: East-West Center).
- 2013 **"Making Sense of Malaysia's China Policy: Asymmetry, Proximity, and Elite's Domestic Authority,"** *Chinese Journal of International Politics* 6:429-467.
- 2013 **"Malaysia's U.S. Policy under Najib: Structural and Domestic Sources of a Small State's Strategy,"** *Asian Security* 9(3):143-164.
- 2012 (With Nor Azizan Idris and Abd Rahim Md Nor) **"The China Factor in the U.S. 'Reengagement' with Southeast Asia: Drivers and Limits of Converged Hedging,"** *Asian Politics and Policy* 4(3): 315-344.
- 2008 **"The Essence of Hedging: Malaysia and Singapore's Response to a Rising China"**, *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 30(2): 159-185.
- 2008 **"China's Evolving Multilateralism in Asia"**, in Kent E. Calder and Francis Fukuyama, eds., *East Asian Multilateralism* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press), pp. 109-142.

- 2005 **“Multilateralism in China’s ASEAN Policy: Its Evolution, Characteristics, and Aspiration,”** *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 27(1): 102-122.
- 2004 《中国参与东盟主导的地区机制的利益分析》 [An Interest-based Analysis on China’s Participation in the ASEAN-led Regional Institutions], *世界经济与政治* [World Economics and Politics] No. 9 (September), pp. 53-59. [Original writing; not translation]

Invited Talks and Presentations (Selected)

“China Studies in Southeast Asia: Trends and Factors” ▪ Panel on “Mutual Learning: Sinology in Asia and Europe”, The Inaugural Conference of the Centre on Contemporary China and the World (CCCW), organized by CCCW, University of Hong Kong ▪ 15 December 2023

“Southeast Asian Hedging amid the U.S.-China Tech Competition: Explaining the Economy-Security Tradeoffs” ▪ Paper presented at the EAI Conference on “Coping with Security Challenges in the Post COVID-19 World: Climate Change, Pandemic, Economic and Cyberspace Security”, organized by East Asia Institute, Seoul ▪ 11-12 December 2023

“The Enduring and Emerging Geopolitical Trends in Southeast Asia” ▪ Panel on “ASEAN and Great Power Rivalry”, Regional Security Workshop on “Navigating Through Concurrent Security Challenges: How to Keep ASEAN in the Driver Seat”, co-organized by Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Embassy of France, and the ASEAN Secretariat ▪ Bali, Indonesia ▪ 6-7 December 2023

“Rethinking the ‘Dual Order’ in Southeast Asia” ▪ The 6th International Workshop on “Building Regional Security Architecture in Asia-Pacific” ▪ SIIS, Shanghai ▪ 28 November 2023

“Malaysia amidst the China-Quad Rivalry: Why do Smaller States Hedge” ▪ Public Lecture, Danube Institute, Budapest, Hungary ▪ 10 November 2023

“ASEAN: Imperfect, Insufficient, but Indispensable” ▪ Panel on “ASEAN as a Pillar of Peace: Fostering Stability in the Indo-Pacific”, the 12th ERIA Editors’ Roundtable, organized by Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta, Indonesia ▪ 6-7 November 2023

“Hedging in International Relations: Blind Spots and Bright Spots” ▪ Global China Studies Seminar, NYU Shanghai, China ▪ 2 November 2023

“Belt and Road Initiative in Southeast Asia: Ten Years On” ▪ Panel on “BRI and International Development Cooperation”, Conference on “China’s Neighborhood Diplomacy in the New Era: Progress and Prospects”, Fudan University, Shanghai, China ▪ 1 November 2023

“Maritime De-risking in the South China Sea” ▪ Panel on “A Multilateral Approach to the South China Sea”, The 15th South China Sea International Conference, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, 24-26 October 2023

“Malaysian Conceptions of International Order” ▪ Paper presented at the Panel Discussion on “Asian Conceptions of International Order: What Asia Wants”, LKY School of Public Policy, NUS, Singapore ▪ 11 September 2023

“Hedging in Southeast Asia” ▪ Panel on “Southeast Asia: Navigating a New Cold War?”, International Studies Centre, Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and The Asia Foundation, Bangkok ▪ 29 August 2023 ▪ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gt2iH3i1UzA>

“Geopolitical Trends and Malaysia’s Interests: Manifestations, Implications, and Options” ▪ Consultative Council on Foreign Policy, Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Putrajaya ▪ 17 July 2023

“International Relations Studies in Malaysia: Trajectories, Theories, and Themes” ▪ The Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA) 17th Congress, Bali, Indonesia ▪ 30 June – 1 July 2023

“A Malaysian Perspective of US-China Competition: Manifestations, Agency, and Options” ▪ Paper presented at the “Southeast Asia in a World of Strategic Competition: Assessing Agency and Options”, Putrajaya, Malaysia ▪ 21-22 June 2023

“Hedging and Weaker States’ Multi-layered Statecraft in the Indo-Pacific Era” ▪ Keynote Speech at the 2nd Symposium on Muslim Politics and World Society, organized by UIII, Depok, Indonesia ▪ 15 June 2023

“Navigating the Indo-Pacific Narratives: Southeast Asian Perspectives on Rules, Like-mindedness, and De-Risking” ▪ Centre for Strategic Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand ▪ 6 June 2023

“Malaysia’s Perspectives of the U.S and China’s Roles in Southeast Asia” ▪ ISEAS Conference on “Southeast Asia in US-China Policy”, Singapore ▪ 23-24 May 2023

“Can Southeast Asian States Continue to Hedge? Between Feasibility and Desirability” ▪ Paper presented at the “Crossroads, Lifelines and Guardrails: 2023 Southeast Asia Regional Geopolitical Update”, Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, Australia ▪ 1 May 2023, <https://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/event/crossroads-lifelines-and-guardrails-2023-southeast-asia-regional-geopolitical-update>

“Malaysia between the U.S. and China: Internal Legitimation and External Equidistance” ▪ Paper presented at the Yale-NUS College Geopolitics Series, Singapore ▪ 22-24 March 2023 ▪ <https://www.yale-nus.edu.sg/events/yale-nus-college-geopolitics-conference-us-china-rivalry-domestic-determinants-of-foreign-policy-in-southeast-asia/>

CC Kuik ▪ “Digital Silk Road in Malaysia: Host-Country Agency and Norms Diffusion in Cyberspace” ▪ International Studies Association Convention, Montreal, Canada ▪ 16 March 2023

Public Lecture on **“Southeast Asia between the U.S. and China: Why Do Smaller States (Still) Insist on Hedging?”** ▪ Organized by Asian Institute, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto ▪ 15 December 2022

Australasian Aid Conference (AAC) Panel and DFAT Roundtable on Chinese Overseas Infrastructure Investment, organized by Australian Aid; and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australian Government, Canberra ▪ 30 November 2022

“Crosstalks or Melian Dialogue: How Southeast Asia See U.S.-China Rivalry” ▪ Workshop on “The PLA in a World of Strategic Competition with the United States”, organized by RAND-NDU-USIP-CAPS, Washington, DC ▪ 18-19 November 2022

Special Session, ASEAN-Japan Expert Panel on the 50th Commemorative Years of ASEAN-Japan Relations, organized by ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (online) ▪ 27 October 2022

ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme, Workshop on Regional Security, organized by the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta ▪ 31 August – 1 September 2022

Brainstorming Session on Identifying Priority Issues for ASEAN in 2023, organized by the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) and Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta ▪ 18-19 August 2022

“Malaysia’s Conceptions of International Order: Paradoxes of Small-State Pragmatism” ▪ ASEAN Conceptions and Practices of Order (ACPIO) Conference, organized by Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore ▪ 15-16 July 2022

“Ambiguities of Alignment: The Politics of Malaysia-US Relations” ▪ (Online) NYSEAN Talk, co-organized by Columbia University and New York Southeast Asia Network (NYSEAN), New York ▪ April 28, 2021

“Asymmetry, Authority, and the Agency of Smaller States along the Belt and Road” ▪ (Online) Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program, organized by School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University, New York ▪ 29 March 2021

“Gaps, Not Traps: A Southeast Asian Perspective of the BRI” ▪ Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Workshop, organized by Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University ▪ Stanford, March 2-3, 2020

“Smaller States and the Twin Chessboards of Asian Geopolitics” ▪ Workshop on “The Future of Power, Norms, and Institutions in the Indo-Pacific: Implications for the Australia-U.S. Alliance”, co-organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the United States Studies Centre (USSC), University of Sydney ▪ Sydney, February 3, 2020

“Malaysia between the BRI and the Indo-Pacific” ▪ MGIMO ASEAN Academic Days, organized by MGIMO University ▪ Moscow, 11 October 2019

“Mapping Malaysia Middlepowerism: Structural and Domestic Sources of Small-State Activism” ▪ International Conference on Middle Powers in the Indo-Pacific Region, co-organized by U.S. Naval War College and Bond University ▪ Gold Coast, Australia, 3-5 October 2019

“Mind the Gaps: China, BRI, and the Politics of Connectivity Cooperation in Southeast Asia”
▪ **Public Lecture on Dealing with China: Lessons from Southeast Asia, co-organized by Leiden Asia Centre and The Clingendael Institute** ▪ The Hague, Netherlands, May 8, 2019

“The ‘New’ Southeast Asia and the ‘Indo-Pacific’: Analyzing the Weaker States’ (Old) Ambivalence” ▪ **Columbia-Harvard International Conference on China and the World, organized by Columbia University** ▪ New York City, February 27-28, 2019

“Emerging Great Games in Southeast Asia: Influence, Infrastructure, and Institutions” ▪ Ifri Annual Conference on Asia 2018: “Power Competition and Regional Stability in Asia”, organized by the French Institute of International Relations (ifri) ▪ Paris, France, 3 December 2018

“A Southeast Asian Perspective of U.S.-China Strategic Futures” ▪ International Conference on U.S.-China Strategic Futures, organized by University of Southern California ▪ Los Angeles, USA, August 27, 2018.

“Circles of Courtships: ASEAN-India Partnership in the Indo-Pacific” ▪ Delhi Dialogue X, co-organized by Indian Ministry of External Affairs and (RIS) ▪ New Delhi, 19-20 July 2018

“Malaysia and the Belt and Road Initiative” ▪ Working Consultation for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Technical Assistance Study of the Belt and Road Initiative with Stakeholders in the GMS and Malaysia, organized by ADB ▪ Beijing, PRC, April 24, 2018

“Southeast Asian Responses to China’s Belt and Road Initiative” ▪ Southeast Asia Seminar Series, St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford ▪ Oxford, 22 November 2017

“Malaysia-China Partnership” ▪ The Chatham House ▪ London, 20 November 2017

“Structural Uncertainty and Weaker States’ Hedging Behavior” ▪ London School of Economics and Political Science ▪ London, 8 September 2017

“Why, When, and How Do Weaker States Hedge? Explaining Southeast Asia’s Responses to China’s Rise” ▪ APARC Seminar, hosted by Southeast Asia Program, Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University ▪ Stanford, March 31, 2015

“The Origins of Hedging: Theorizing Weaker States’ Alignment Choices toward a Rising Power” ▪ 7th Annual CWP Workshop ▪ Harvard University, 6 December 2013

“Hedging in International Relations” ▪ Princeton “China and the World Program” Talk ▪ Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, 16 October 2013

Peer Reviewer: Journals

Asian Journal of Comparative Politics, Asian Politics and Policy, Asian Security, Australian Journal of International Affairs, Cambridge Review of International Affairs, Chinese Journal of International Politics, Contemporary Southeast Asia, Cooperation and Conflict, Foreign Policy Analysis, Global Studies Quarterly, International Affairs, International Journal of Asia Pacific Studies,

International Journal of China Studies, International Politics, International Relations, International Relations of the Asia-Pacific, International Security, International Spectator, International Studies Quarterly, International Studies Review, Japanese Journal of Political Science, Journal of Current Chinese Affairs, Journal of the British Association for Chinese Studies, Journal of Cold War Studies, Pacific Affairs, Pacific Review, Strategic Studies (ISSI), TRaNS: Trans-Regional and National Studies of Southeast Asia

Thesis Supervision and Examination

PhD Supervision ▪ 6 graduated + 6 in progress

Master Thesis Supervision ▪ 72 graduated + 4 in progress

Undergraduate Thesis Supervision (B.A. in International Relations) ▪ 15 graduated

External Examiner (Selected):

- Master's Thesis ▪ Cambridge University ▪ “How US-China Technology Competition Constrains Hedging Behavior in International Relations” ▪ August 2021
- PhD Thesis ▪ Australian National University ▪ “Between Honey and Poison: Indonesia's Management of Ties with a Rising China” ▪ December 2021

Professional Experiences (Selected)

Non-resident Scholar ▪ Carnegie China ▪ January 2024 – present
<https://carnegieendowment.org/experts/2467>

Non-resident Senior Fellow ▪ Foreign Policy Institute (FPI), Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Washington, DC ▪ December 2023 – present
<https://www.fpi.sais.jhu.edu/cheng-chwee-kuik>

Member ▪ Consultative Council on Foreign Policy (CCFP), Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs ▪ January 2023 – present

Visiting Professor ▪ Department of International Politics, Universitas Indonesia, Depok ▪ September 2022

Member ▪ Council on Indo-Pacific Relations (CIPR), East-West Center in Washington (EWCW) ▪ September 2022 – September 2023

Co-Investigator ▪ JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development (JICA Ogata Research Institute) on “The New Dynamics of Peace and Development in the Indo-Pacific: How Countries in the Region Proactively Interact with China” ▪ Principal Investigator: Professor Takahara Akio ▪ July 2022 – March 2024

Co-Investigator ▪ Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Norway ▪ Research Council of Norway Project on “Shaping the Digital World Order: Norms and Agency along the Digital Silk Road in Southeast Asia” ▪ Principal Investigator: Dr. Ilaria Carrozza ▪ June 2021 – May 2024

Consultant ▪ Council on Foreign Relations, New York ▪ April – June 2021

Honorary Research Fellow ▪ East Asia Security Centre (EASC), Bond University, Australia ▪ October 2019 –

Principal Writer & Head, Writing Team (External Expert Panel), Malaysia's inaugural Defence White Paper ▪ Malaysian Ministry of Defence ▪ January – December 2019

Non-resident Fellow ▪ Foreign Policy Institute (FPI), Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Washington, DC ▪ December 2018 –

Consultant ▪ Asian Development Bank (ADB) TA-9124 PRC: Study of the Belt and Road Initiative ▪ September 2018 – June 2019

Coordinator ▪ Master of Social Sciences in Strategy and Diplomacy ▪ A collaborative program between Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia ▪ October 2014 – October 2017

Project Leader & Principal Investigator ▪ Newton Advanced Fellowship Project on “Asymmetry and Authority: Southeast Asian States’ Responses to China’s Belt and Road Initiative” (in collaboration with Dr. Lee Jones, Queen Mary University of London) ▪ March 2016 – February 2018

Co-Researcher ▪ Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) Project on “Road to Chinese Power: Railroad Infrastructure and Beijing’s Quest for Influence” (led by Professor David M. Lampton) ▪ January 2016 – December 2018

Senior Researcher ▪ Unit Perundingan Universiti Malaya (UPUM) Project on “Malaysia’s Foreign Policy as a Middle Power” (led by Tan Sri Kamal Salih), for the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ▪ August 2016 – February 2017

Founder and Co-Convener ▪ East Asian International Relations (EAIR) Caucus, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) ▪ August 2014 – Present

Language Proficiency

- Bahasa Malaysia ▪ Fluency in conversation and writing
- English ▪ Fluency in conversation and writing
- Chinese (Mandarin) ▪ Fluency in conversation and writing
- Teochew/Chaozhou ▪ Fluency in conversation
- Hokkien/Fujian/Minnan ▪ Fluency in conversation

Personal

Date and Place of Birth: 23 July 1971, in Muar, Malaysia

Citizenship: Malaysian

Family: Married, two children (b. 2002 & 2005)