

# Asia Pacific Conference Workshop

With an aim to invite researchers affiliated with universities or research institutions other than APU in order to further advance research and disseminate the research findings through publications, this workshop has been held on the day preceding the AP Conference since 2017. The details are as follows.

**Title:** Competitive narratives on the 2019 coronavirus pandemic in Asia

**Date:** Friday, November 13, 2020

**Venue:** This online workshop will be conducted using the Zoom webinar.

## **Abstract**

This workshop intends to intensively discuss draft book chapters for a collective volume on competing narratives on the coronavirus pandemic in Asia. We adopt a healthy form of analytic eclecticism (Sil and Katzenstein 2010) that allows for building arguments that bear on problems of interest to academics and practitioners informed by different research traditions. We believe that it is both possible and desirable to engage simultaneously with the “applied” question of how actors use narratives to influence each other and the “(meta)theoretical” question of how subjects are constituted through narration. In so doing, the volume will broaden our understanding of narrative-making and their conceptual and foreign policy implications. Following the approach of Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA; also found in Classical Realism), both system-level factors and domestic factors will be examined. At the same time, our contributors draw heavily from Constructivism. Authors based in Asia will take on respective local narratives head on by taking local language sources seriously. Their analysis of the covered country’s pandemic narrative will be discussed in relation to the competing PRC and US narratives, considering the effects thus produced. Two separate chapters will be dedicated to the US and the PRC as narrative entrepreneurs, facing risks and opportunities brought by the global coronavirus outbreak.

## **Program**

09:00	Welcome Remarks, Sato and Chen
09:05-09:15	Participant Self-Introduction
09:15-09:50	Theoretical Framework, Presentation (Chen and Yamamoto) and Discussion
09:50-11:00	Superpowers, Presentations (Sato, Matsuda) and Discussion
11:00-11:10	Break
11:10-12:20	Vietnam and Taiwan, Presentations (Tran, Chen)
12:20-13:00	Break
13:00-14:10	Korean Peninsula, Presentations (Kim, Park)
14:10-15:55	Southeast Asian hedgers, Presentations (Sharif, Sophal, Yi)
15:55-16:05	Break
16:05-17:15	QUAD partners, Presentations (Midford, Basu)
17:15-17:20	Closing Remarks (Sato, Chen)

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## Participants

*The keyword in the parenthesis denotes the region or field for which the author is responsible.*

Tran Phuong Thao, Ph.D. student, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Vietnam)

Jiye Kim, Lecturer/Researcher, Macquarie University ; University of Sydney (South Korea)

Ashley Seohee Park, Ph.D. student, Tohoku University (North Korea)

Rakhmat Sharif, Lecturer and Researcher, Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia (Indonesia)

Sek Sophal, Project Officer, Cambodian Center for Independence Media; Researcher, Democracy Promotion Centre, Ritsumeikan Centre for Asia Pacific Studies, Beppu, Japan (Thailand)

Hnin Yi, Lecturer, Department of International Relations, East Yangon University PhD candidate, University of Yangon Myanmar (Myanmar)

Ching-Chang Chen, Associate Professor, Ryukoku University (Taiwan)

Yasuhiro Matsuda, Professor, Institute of Oriental Cultures, University of Tokyo (China)

Yoichiro Sato, Professor, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (US)

Paul Midford, Professor of Political Science, Director of the NTNU Japan Program, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) (Japan)

Titli Basu, Associate Fellow, Institutional Affiliation: Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), India (India)

Yamamoto, Andrei, Adjunct Lecturer, Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts (Theory)