

Biography

LL.M. Takai Susumu, President, Security Strategy Research Institute of Japan

LL.M. Susumu Takai is the President of Japan Security Strategy Research Institute, SSRI. He graduated from the Postgraduate School of Aoyama Gakuin University, and then started his carrier as a research fellow on international law at the National Institute for Defense Studies, NIDS, of the Ministry of Defense. He engaged his research on international law of the sea, international law of air and space and UN Peacekeeping. During the periods in NIDS, he provided his lecture on international law at various universities and postgraduate schools. He retired from NIDS when he was a director of the library and archives.



He focuses his research on legal aspects of defense studies and Japan's island territory issues. Among his books and articles, he contributed articles on Japan's island territory to the SPF Journal of Island Studies as follows: A History of the Northern Territories and Pertaining Rights (2018); Stalin's Definition of Northern territories (2015); China's White Papers on Senkaku Islands and Claim to the islands (2013); Re-examination of South Korea's Claim on Takeshima Island (2012).

Professor Okamatsu Akiko, Professor of International Law, Hosei University

Akiko Okamatsu is a professor of International Law at Faculty of Sustainability Studies, Hosei University, Japan. She is a Member of the Compliance Group of 1996 London Protocol, Special Advisor to the Ministry of Environment (Japan), and Guest Researcher of Research Office of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense, House of Councilors (Japan). She was also a visiting scholar of Harvard Law School from 2013 to 2014.



Her main works include Casebook of International Environmental Law (Co-editor, 2020), Environment and Law (Co-editor, 2010), "IAEA Safeguard" (2017), "International Management on Transfer of Nuclear Materials and Equipment" (2016), "The Present Status and Future of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972 and 1996 Protocol Thereto" (2015), "Environmental Impact Assessment in International Law"(2015), "Interaction between International Law and Domestic Law on the Vessel-Source Pollution in the Arctic Ocean" (2015), "Problems over the Exploitation of the Natural Resources on the Continental Shelf from the Perspective of International Law" (2011) etc.

Dr. Elena Atanassova-Cornelis, Senior Lecturer of the University of Antwerp



Dr. Elena Atanassova-Cornelis is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations of East Asia. She teaches at the Department of Politics, University of Antwerp (UA), and the School of Political and Social Sciences, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), both in Belgium. She is concurrently a Visiting Professor at the Brussels School of International Studies (BSIS) of the University of Kent, as well as an Associate Fellow, Global Fellowship Initiative, at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) in Switzerland. Her research interests and expertise include international relations in the Asia-Pacific region with an emphasis on security. She focuses, in particular, on Japanese foreign and security policy; alignments and major power relations in the Asia-Pacific region; security and geopolitics of the Taiwan Strait and the Korean Peninsula, as well as regional security cooperation in Asia and EU-Asia relations. Dr. Atanassova-Cornelis has authored 60 academic articles, book chapters, briefing papers and reports covering various topics related to Asian-Pacific politics and security, and Asia-Europe relations. She has delivered more than 90 lectures and presentations at conferences, high-level expert meetings, and universities in both Europe and Asia.

Dr. Jay L Batongbacal, Professor of the University of the Philippines



Jay L Batongbacal is a lawyer with degrees in Political Science and Law from the University of the Philippines, as well as Master of Marine Management and Doctor in the Science of Law, both from Dalhousie University (Canada). He has worked extensively on maritime affairs since 1997. Dr. Batongbacal was legal advisor to the Philippine delegation that successfully pursued the Philippines' claim to a continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in the Benham Rise Region before the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the designation by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of the Tubbataha Reef Natural Park Particularly Sensitive Sea Area. Presently, he is a full Professor of the University of the Philippines College of Law and Executive Director of its Graduate Studies Committee which oversees the College's LLM Program. He is concurrently Director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs & Law of the Sea of the University of the Philippines Law Center

Dr. Nguyen Hung Son, Vice President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Nguyen Hung Son is Vice President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and Director-General of the East Sea (South China Sea) Institute. Prior to his current designation, Nguyen Hung Son was Deputy Director-General of the Institute for Strategic Studies at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.



He's research focused on major powers relations, regional security governance, maritime security and Vietnam's foreign policy. As a diplomat, Nguyen Hung Son served as Minister Counsellor of the Vietnam Embassy in Ottawa, Canada (2015-2018) and Second Secretary of the Vietnam Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden (2004-2006).

He also served at the ASEAN department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during which period he extensively participated in regional summits, and had hands on experience on many regional processes and issues involving ASEAN. He was member of the Vietnam High Level Task Force delegation negotiating the ASEAN Charter in 2006-2007. While he was serving as the head of the ASEAN Standing Committee division at the ASEAN department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam presided over the ASEAN Standing Committee from July 2000 to July 2001.

Nguyen Hung Son got his B.A degree from the National Economic University of Vietnam, an M.Sc degree on International Economics from Birmingham University of the United Kingdom, and a Phd degree on International Relations at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

VADM. Yoji Koda,

Vice Admiral Koda is a graduate of Japan Defense Academy (1972), JMSDF Staff College, and the U.S. Naval War College. As a surface officer, he took command of JS Sawayuki (DD-125) and Fleet Surface Force at sea. His shore duty includes Director for Strategy, Plans and Operations, Maritime Staff. He retired from JMSDF as Commander in Chief, Self-Defense Fleet, in 2008. Then, he made in depth research on China's Current Naval Strategy at Asia-Center, Harvard University from June 2009 to July 2011. He had served as an advisor to National Security Secretariat of GOJ until March 2016.



He is a proficient writer on maritime affairs. His recent articles include: "The Russo-Japanese War: Primary Causes of Japanese Success," U.S. Naval War College, "A New Carrier Race: Strategy, Force Planning and JS Hyuga," U.S. Naval War College, "The U.S.-Japan Alliance: Responding to China's A2/AD Threat," Center for New American Security.

Dr. James Kraska, Professor of the U.S. Naval War College

Dr. James Kraska is Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law and Chair of the Stockton Center for International Law at the U.S. Naval War College and Visiting Professor of Law and John Harvey Gregory Lecturer on World Organization at Harvard Law School. He is also visiting professor at University of Reading School of Law and University of the Philippines College of Law. Previously, he served at Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at Gujarat National Law University, Mary Derrickson McCurdy Visiting Scholar at Duke University Marine Laboratory, and Office of the Chief of Naval Research Fellow in residence at the Marine Policy Center, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Kraska is Executive Editor of *International Law Studies*, the oldest journal of international law in the United States and Editor-in-Chief of the three-volume *Benedict on Admiralty: International Maritime Law*. A former Navy judge advocate, he served with operational forces in the Indo-Pacific region and in four Pentagon positions, including Oceans Law & Policy Adviser and Director of International Negotiations, both on the Joint Staff. He directs the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard Commander's Handbook on the Law of Naval Operations and the multinational Newport Manual on the Law of Naval Warfare and is author or editor of 11 books and numerous scholarly articles on international law and naval operations.



Dr. Robert McLaughlin, Professor of the Australian National University

Prof Rob McLaughlin is Professor of International Law at the Australian National Centre for Oceans Resources and Security, Senior Fellow at the Stockton Centre for International Law at the US Naval War College, and Honorary Professor at the Australian National University. He researches, publishes, and teaches in the areas of Law of Armed Conflict, Law of the Sea, Maritime Security and Enforcement Law, and Military Law. He routinely engages in research activities, and course development and delivery, with the ICRC, the Australian Red Cross, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Rob came to academia after a career in the Royal Australian Navy as a Seaman officer (surface and submarine) and a Legal officer. Consequently, his research interests are primarily focused around issues of practical operational significance. His legal roles included as the Fleet Legal Officer, the Strategic Legal Adviser, as a Counsel Assisting the HMAS SYDNEY II Commission of Inquiry, Director Operations and International Law, and Director Naval Legal Service.



Dr. Alessio Patalano, Reader of the King' College London

Dr. Patalano is Reader in East Asian Warfare and Security at the Department of War Studies (DWS), King's College London (KCL), and specialises in maritime strategy and doctrine, Japanese military history and strategy, East Asian Security, and Italian defence policy. From 2006 to 2015, he was visiting professor in Strategy at the Italian Naval War College (ISMM), Venice. In Japan, Dr Patalano has been a visiting professor at Aoyama Gakuin University and at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), both in Tokyo, and currently is Adjunct Fellow at the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, Temple University Japan, a Visiting Professor at the Japan Maritime Command and Staff College (JMCSC), and a Senior Fellow at the highly influential think tank Policy Exchange.



At KCL, Dr Patalano is the Director of the Asian Security and Warfare Research Group and the King's Japan Programme.

Dr Patalano's current research focuses on maritime strategy, Chinese hybrid strategy and maritime coercion, Sino-Japanese maritime territorial disputes, Japan-Gulf security cooperation, and the relationship between military power and statecraft in Japan. He maintains active research collaborations with the Naval Postgraduate School (Monterey, CA), the China Maritime Studies Institute at the Naval War College, (Newport, RI). Dr Patalano is also involved in military education and has developed and delivered a variety of programmes on East Asian security and regional affairs in both Southeast Asia and the Gulf region

Dr. Eva Pejsova, Senior Fellow at the Free University of Brussels

Eve Pejsova is a Senior Japan Fellow at the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and an Associate Fellow at the French "Fondation pour la Recherche Strategique" (FRS). Previously, Dr Pejsova was in charge of the Asia portfolio at the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), the EU's official agency for foreign and security policy research and analysis.



She holds a PhD in Strategic Studies from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore and has previously worked with the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Prime Minister's Office, the OECD and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).

Dr Pejsova regularly lectures at SciencesPo (Paris School of International Affairs) in Paris, the Geneva Centre for Security Studies (GCSP), as well as briefs the Members of the European Parliament. She is member of the CSCAP EU Committee and the Europe-India Research and Dialogue Network (EIRDN).

Her research focuses on security issues within the broader Indo-Pacific region, notably related to maritime security, sovereignty disputes, regional cooperative mechanism, as well as overall issues of good ocean governance.