

# 2ND ASIAN SUMMER SCHOOL POLITICAL PARTIES & DEMOCRACY

20 JUNE - 26 JUNE 2022

**OSCE ACADEMY**

**BISHKEK, KYRGYSTAN**

Organized by:



University of  
Nottingham  
UK • CHINA • MALAYSIA

OSCE ACADEMY  
in Bishkek



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# WELCOME

## Welcome

Welcome to this seven-day intensive Summer School organised by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the University of Nottingham-Malaysia, the OSCE Academy (<https://www.osce-academy.net/>), the Asian Political and International Studies Association (<https://www.apisa.org/>) and the Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy. This Summer School brings together an international team of 13 academics and 9 practitioners to train and instruct a group of 14 MA/PhD researchers and practitioners and civil society leaders in the field of political parties and democracy in Asia.

The main aims of the Summer School include:

- to provide instruction and discussion on a wider range of analytical perspectives in the study of political parties, party systems, elections and democracy;
- to develop a multinational forum for both junior scholars and practitioners to critically discuss their research projects and the development of the subfield;
- to assist PhD/MA researchers to develop their dissertation projects at the cutting edge of the field, contributing to innovation in conceptualisation, measurement, analysis and theory;
- to prepare PhD/MA researchers for the requirements and criteria of international academic publishing, and to encourage them to submit their work to academic journals;
- to help practitioners to understand the main academic findings regarding party politics and democracy promotion;
- to build on the most recent developments and challenges of political party development and democracy promotion presented by the “Global Agenda for the Renewal of Representation” (<https://www.osce.org/odihr/395219>);
- to stimulate international collaboration in the field of parties, party systems, elections and democracy and to encourage PhD/MA researchers and practitioners to take part in such collaboration.

# SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

**Monday** 20th June

**09.30 - 10.00** Welcome by KAS-Asia Director, OSCE Academy Director, UoN-Malaysia Head of School and APISA President)

**10.00 - 10.30** Welcome by the Summer School co-directors

**10.30 - 11.00** Virtual tour de table

*Topic: "Elections and Election Campaigning"*

*Speakers: Dr Christian Schafferer (Overseas Chinese University, Taiwan) and Roger Do (AutoPolitic)*

*Guest Expert: Dr Don Lee (Sungkyunkwan University)*

**11.00 - 11.45** Speaker's presentation

**11.45 - 12.00** Coffee break

**12.00 - 13.30** Debate and discussion with the guest speakers

**13.30 - 15.00** Lunch Break

**15.00 - 16.00** "Faith, Gender and Politics in Indonesia?" (Wasisto Jati)  
Discussant: Gulzar Karybekova

**16.00 - 16.15** Break

**16.15 - 17:15** "Political Party Beyond Elections" (Vincent Noel Aureus)  
Discussant: Wasisto Jati

**17.15 - 17.30** Wrap up and next session preparation

**18.00** Welcome dinner

# SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

**Tuesday** 21st June

*Topic: "Political Parties, Social Movements and New Technologies"*  
*Speakers:* Prof. Julio Teehankee (De La Salle University, Philippines)  
and Neha Joshi (Indian Bharatiya Janata Party, Media and Youth  
Wing National Head)  
*Guest Expert:* Jasmin Dall'Agnola (OSCE Academy)

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>10.00 - 10.45</b> | Speaker's presentation  |
| <b>10.45 - 11.00</b> | Coffee break  |
| <b>11.00 - 12.30</b> | Debate and discussion with the guest speakers   |
| <b>12.30 - 14.00</b> | Lunch Break   |
| <b>14.00 - 15.00</b> | "Internet Restrictions in Cambodia" (Ponleu Soun)<br>Discussant: Muh Afit Khomsani  |
| <b>15.00 - 15.15</b> | Break   |
| <b>15.15 - 16.15</b> | "Political Dynasties and Party-List Representation in The<br>Philippines" (Leonardo Jaminola)<br>Discussant: Isuri Siriwardhana |
| <b>16.15 - 16.30</b> | Wrap up and next session preparation  |

# SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

**Wednesday** *22nd June*

*Topic: "Political Party (System) Institutionalization"*

*Speakers: Prof. Allen Hicken (University of Michigan) and Dr Emil Juraev (Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan)*

*Guest Expert: Prof. Airo Hino (Waseda University)*

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>08.00 - 08.45</b> | Speaker's presentation  |
| <b>08.45 - 09.00</b> | Coffee break  |
| <b>09.00 - 10.30</b> | Debate and discussion with the guest speakers   |
| <b>10.30 - 11.30</b> | "Power Elite Politics and Denominational Political Parties" (Javaria Sehar)<br>Discussant: Yrys Abdieva   |
| <b>11.30 - 13.00</b> | Lunch Break   |
| <b>13.00 - 14.00</b> | "Future of Mongolia's Political Party System" (Enkhtsetseg Dagva)<br>Discussant: Javaria Sehar  |
| <b>14.00 - 14.45</b> | Special Session: "How to Get Published?" with Dr Fernando Casal Bértoa (co-editor of the Routledge Book Series on "Political Parties, Party Systems and Elections") |
| <b>15.00 - 18.00</b> | Introduction to Kyrgyzstan's nomadic way of life and steppe landscape   |

# SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

**Thursday** 23rd June

*Topic: "Democracy Backsliding and Populism"*

*Speakers:* Prof. William Case (University of Nottingham-Malaysia)  
and Jargalan Batbayar (Democratic Party, Women's Wing)

*Guest Expert:* Dr. Alexander Wolters (OSCE Academy)

- 10.15 - 11.00** Speaker's presentation
- 11.00 - 11.15** Coffee break
- 11.15 - 12.45** Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
- 12.45 - 14.00** Lunch Break
- 14.00 - 15.00** "Central Asian States' Roles in (Combatting) Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing" (Yrys Abdieva)  
Discussant: Enkhtsetseg Dagva  
Break
- 15.00 - 15.15** Special Roundtable: "The Consequences of Russia's Bid in Central Asian Party Politics and Democratic Perspectives"
- 15.15 - 16.45** Moderator: Dr Fernando Casal Bértoa (University of Nottingham)  
Speakers: Jargalan Batbayar (Democratic Party, Women's Wing),  
Dr. Emir Kulov (American University of Central Asia) and Dr.  
Alexander Wolters (OSCE Academy)
- 16.45 - 18.15** Reception

# SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

**Friday** 24th June

*Topic: "Political Parties and Representation – Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities"*

*Speakers: Dr Bridget Welsh (University of Nottingham-Malaysia) and Zhyldyz Abdylidaeva (HelvetaS-USAID)*

*Guest Expert: Dr Carole Spary (University of Nottingham)*

- 10.00 - 10.45** Speaker's presentation
- 10.45 - 11.00** Coffee break
- 11.00 - 12.30** Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
- 12.30 - 14.00** Lunch Break
- 14.00 - 15.00** "Women and Campaign Finance in Sri Lanka" (Isuri Siriwardhana)  
Discussant: Atai Abylgaziev
- 15.00 - 15.15** Break
- 15.15 - 16.15** "Women in Politics in Kyrgyzstan" (Gulzar Karybekova)  
Discussant: Vincent Noel Aureus
- 16.15 - 16.30** Wrap up and next session preparation



# SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

**Saturday** 25th June

*Topic: "Party Funding and Corruption"*

*Speakers: Dr Fernando Casal Bértoa (University of Nottingham) and Dr Marcin Walecki (Oxford University)*

*Guest Expert: Prof. Ingrid van Biezen (Leiden University)*

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>10.00 - 10.45</b> | Speaker's presentation   |
| <b>10.45 - 11.00</b> | Coffee break   |
| <b>11.00 - 12.30</b> | Debate and discussion with the guest speakers  |
| <b>12.30 - 14.00</b> | Lunch Break  |
| <b>14.00 - 15.00</b> | "Effectiveness of Open Government Initiative in Combating Corruption in Indonesia" (Muh Afrit Khomsani)<br>Discussant: Leonardo Jaminola |
| <b>15.00 - 15.15</b> | Wrap up and next session preparation   |

# SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

**Sunday**     *26th June*

*Topic: "Democracy Promotion: Pros and Cons"*

*Speakers: Dr Bann Seng Tan (Ashoka University, India) and Mr. Rey Uzhmar C. Padit (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung)*

*Guest Expert: Dr. Nurseit Niazbekov (KIMEP University)*

<b>10.00 - 10.45</b>	Speaker's presentation
<b>10.45 - 11.00</b>	Coffee break
<b>11.00 - 12.30</b>	Debate and discussion with the guest speakers
<b>12.30 - 14.00</b>	Lunch Break
<b>14.00 - 14.30</b>	Wrap up and farewell speeches
<b>15.00 - 16.30</b>	Learning journey of Bishkek's political history
<b>18.00</b>	Farewell dinner

# LOGISTICS & ADMIN NOTES

## Venue

20-26 June 2022 – Conference Hall, OSCE Academy, Bishkek

## Air Ticket

Most of your air tickets are booked and paid by us to the travel agent directly. Should you not be able to attend the conference after the ticket is issued, kindly inform our office **immediately**.

## Covid-19 Regulations in Bishkek

Covid-19 related restrictions are lifted in Kyrgyzstan, but we still ask all participants to follow safety measure: use sanitizers, if you feel that you are getting sick, please wear a mask or stay home/hotel room and join online.

## Travel Insurance

Please note the Foundation does not provide travel insurance. You can purchase your own but NOT reimbursable.

## Airport Pick-up

Airport transfer is organized for non-Bishkek residents, arriving to the Airport Manas. Driver with the sign «**OSCE Academy**» will be standing at the exit.

**Note** : *Local drivers at the airport are very active and will start offering you their services. Please do not follow any of them, just look for the driver holding the sign. Even if your flight will be delayed, the driver will be waiting for you. In case if you are not able to find a driver, local contact person is Victoria Orazova (OSCE Academy) +996 77098402.*

# LOGISTICS & ADMIN NOTES

## City Transfers

A minibus with the sign "OSCE Academy" will pick-up the participants, organizers and trainers, accommodate in the hotel according to the schedule below:

20 June – 9:00 am  
21 June – 9:20 am  
22 June – 7:30 am  
23 June – 9:30 am  
24 June – 9:20 am  
25 June – 9:20 am  
26 June – 9:20 am

## Accommodation

Double rooms have been reserved for participants at the City Hotel  
<https://www.cityhotel.kg/en/> Breakfasts are included.

Room accommodation for participants are between **19th to 27th June**, unless if otherwise stated due to availability of flight routes.

For speakers, room nights are covered the day before speaking engagement and the day of speaking engagement only. Any extensions before or after these periods will be on personal expenses.

The address of the hotel is:

**34/1 Baitik Baatyr str, 720003  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**

Check-in timing : upon arrival

Check-out timing : 12:00

Please note that additional hotel services, such as mini-bar, telephone, business center, laundry and room service **will not be paid for by the Organizers.**

# LOGISTICS & ADMIN NOTES

## Meals

Lunches will be provided by the organizers on the days of the Summer School according to the Program.

**Lunches** are from a set menu. If you have any special needs in regard to meals (e.g. particular dietary requirements), please do let us know in advance.

**Dinners** will be provided on **20, 23 and 26 June**. Welcome and Farewell dinners will be at the restaurant "Pishpek" (17/1 Togolok Moldo St). Reception on 23 June will be organized at the Academy's yard.

Breakfasts is included within the costs of the hotel room.

## Dress code

Business wear during the program.

## Security

Please take your passport to enter the building of the OSCE Academy on 20 June.

## Covid-19 Safety Measures

You do not need PCR test to arrive to Kyrgyzstan. If you need to do a PCR test before your departure from Kyrgyzstan (if the country of your destination requires PCR test), there is a Laboratory Express Plus (<https://expresslab.kg/en/>) near the OSCE Academy st. Toktonalieva 60/1. The cost is 1500 soms.

If the PCR test is done before 9:00 the results will be ready after 18:00. If between 9:00-15:00 the results will be ready after 23:00.

## General Information

**Currency, Mode of Payment and ATMs:** Local currency is Kyrgyz soms. Payment can be made in cash in soms or in the supermarkets, restaurants you can use your cards (Visa or Master cards). At local markets -bazaars, only cash is used. **There are ATMs at each large shopping mall and nearby the OSCE Academy.**

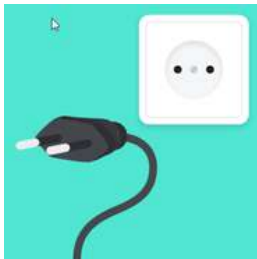
# LOGISTICS & ADMIN NOTES

## Weather

Temperatures range between 28 degrees celcius to 17 degrees celcius, generally higher in the day and lower in the night. There will be occasional showers at times.

## Power Plugs

For Kyrgyzstan there are two associated plug types, types C and F. Plug type C is the plug which has two round pins and plug type F is the plug which has two round pins with two earth clips on the side. Kyrgyzstan operates on a 220V supply voltage and 50Hz.



Type C



Type F

## Emergency Contacts

### Hotel

Tel: (+996 312) 97 62 62  
Mob: (+996 777) 991 555

### Kyrgyzstan Immigration

Tel: 189

### Police

Tel: 102

## For all other matters:

### Victoria Orazova

Head of International Office  
OSCE Academy in Bishkek | Addresspereulok Botanichesky 1 A  
| Tel: + +996 312 54 32 00 (ext 117) | Mobile: + 996 770 984102  
Email: [v.orazova@osce-academy.net](mailto:v.orazova@osce-academy.net)

# READING LIST

## Session 1

- Shukri, S. (2021): "Malay Political Polarization and Islamic Populism in Malaysia", Stratsea. Available at <https://stratsea.com/malay-political-polarization-and-islamic-populism-in-malaysia/>
- Case, W. (2015): "Democracy's Mixed Fortunes in Southeast Asia: Torpor, Change, and Trade-offs", in Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Democratization. Abingdon: Routledge

## Session 2

- Medvic, S.K. (2007): Campaigns and elections: players and processes. Abingdon: Routledge (Chapters 1 and 9)
- Chua, B.H. (2007): Elections as popular culture in Asia. Abingdon: Routledge (Introduction)

## Session 3

- Hamada, Y. and Agrawal, K. (2020): Political Finance Reforms: How to Respond to Today's Policy Challenges, Stockholm, International IDEA. Available at <https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/political-finance-reforms-how-respond-todays-policy-challenges>
- Mobrand, E., Casal Bértoa, F. and Hamada, Y. (2019): The Integrity of Political Finance Systems in Asia: Tackling Political Corruption. Stockholm, International IDEA. Available at <https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/integrity-political-finance-systems-asia>

# READING LIST

## Session 1

- Medvic, S.K. (2007): Campaigns and elections: players and processes. Abingdon: Routledge (Chapters 1 and 9)
- Chua, B.H. (2007): Elections as popular culture in Asia. Abingdon: Routledge (Introduction)

## Session 2

- Muihead, R. and Rosenblum, N.L. (2020): "The Political Theory of Parties and Partisanship: Catching Up", v. 23, pp. 95-110. Available at <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-polisci-041916-020727>
- Kalsnes, B. (2016): "The Social Media Paradox Explained: Comparing Political Parties' Facebook Strategy Versus Practice", *Social Media + Society*, pp. 1-11. Available at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2056305116644616>

## Session 3

- Mainwaring, S. and Bizzarro, F. (2018): "Democratization without Party System Institutionalization: Cross-National Correlates", in Scott Mainwaring (ed.) *Party System in Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Rasmussen, M.B. and Knutsen, C.H. (2021): "Party Institutionalization and Welfare State Development", *British Journal of Political Science*, v. 51, pp. 1203-1229. Available at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/british-journal-of-political-science/article/abs/party-institutionalization-and-welfare-state-development/1FF9394BB5EF93D78E4DCA5525099540>
- Fiona, U. and Tomsa, D. (2017): "Parties and Factions in Indonesia: The Effects of Historical Legacies and. Institutional Engineering", *The ISEAS Working Paper Series*, No. 1. Available at [https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/WorkingPaper2017\\_1.pdf](https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/WorkingPaper2017_1.pdf)



# READING LIST

## Session 4

- Shukri, S. (2021): "Malay Political Polarization and Islamic Populism in Malaysia", Stratsea. Available at <https://stratsea.com/malay-political-polarization-and-islamic-populism-in-malaysia/>
- Case, W. (2021): "Late Malaysian politics: From single party dominance to multi party system", RSIS Working Paper. Available at <https://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-publication/rsis/late-malaysian-politics-from-single-party-dominance-to-multi-party-mayhem/>

## Session 5

- Joo, Y. (2018): "Same Despair but Different Hope", *Development and Society*, v. 47, n. 3, pp. 401-422 (<https://www.dbpia.co.kr/Journal/articleDetail?nodeId=NODE07541541>)
- McCargo, D. (2021): "Disruptors' Dilemma? Thailand's 2020 Gen Z Protests", *Critical Asian Studies*, v. 53, n. 2, pp. 175-191 (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14672715.2021.1876522>)
- Choi, N. (2019): "Women's Political Pathways in Southeast Asia", *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, v. 21, n. 2, pp. 224-248 (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14616742.2018.1523683>)

## Session 6

- Hamada, Y. and Agrawal, K. (2020): *Political Finance Reforms: How to Respond to Today's Policy Challenges*, Stockholm, International IDEA. Available at <https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/political-finance-reforms-how-respond-todays-policy-challenges>
- Mobrand, E., Casal Bértoa, F. and Hamada, Y. (2019): *The Integrity of Political Finance Systems in Asia: Tackling Political Corruption*. Stockholm, International IDEA. Available at <https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/integrity-political-finance-systems-asia>

# READING LIST

## Session 7

- Tan, B.S. (2021): International Aid and Democracy Promotion. Abingdon: Routledge (Introduction)
- Riedl, R.B., Slater, D. Wong, J. and Ziblatt, D. (2020): "Authoritarian-Led Democratization", Annual Review of Political Science, v. 23, n. 3, pp. 315-332. Available at [www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-polisci-052318-025732](http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-polisci-052318-025732)

# BIOGRAPHIES *Directors*



**FERNANDO CASAL BÉRTOA**

Co-director of REPRESENT: Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy

**Fernando Casal Bértoa** is an Associate Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom). He is member of the OSCE/ODIHR “Core Group of Political Party Experts”. He is also co-director of REPRESENT: Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy. His work has been published in *Journal of Politics*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, *Electoral Studies*, *West European Politics*, *Party Politics*, *Democratization*, *European Political Science Review*, among others. He was awarded the 2017 Gordon Smith and Vincent Wright Memorial Prize, the 2017 AECPA Prize for the Best Article and the 2018 Vice-Chancellor Medal of the University of Nottingham for “exceptional achievements”. His last book, titled *Party System Closure: Party Alliances, Government Alternatives and Democracy in Europe*, is forthcoming with Oxford University Press.



**ALINA REISS**

Deputy Director, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia

**Alina Reiss** is the Deputy Director of the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. She is currently running the daily business of the office. Additionally, she is responsible for the programme’s activities in the field of multilateralism and regional cooperation. Alina is the co-host of the German language podcast “Asien Aktuell”. Before she joined the team of KAS Political Dialogue Asia in Singapore, Alina worked for KAS Head Office in Berlin as well as for the foundation’s Country Office in South Africa. She holds a Master’s Degree in International Relations and Development Policy from the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany and the University of Cape Town, South Africa. In her undergraduate studies Alina majored in Political Science.



**REY PADIT**

Programme Manager for Political Co-operation Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Singapore

**Rey Padit** is the Programme Manager for Political Co-operation under the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia. He is mainly responsible in managing three portfolios namely, the Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP), the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Young Political Leaders Caucus (KASYP-LC), and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Election Bridge Asia – Pacific. Before joining the Foundation, he was part of the KASYP, KASYP-LC, KAS Election Bridge Asia-Pacific, and the KAS International Summer School Programmes. Through these trainings, he co-founded a national political party and won a campaign for elected positions in the Philippines. Apart from politics, he is also experienced in disaster risk reduction management, local governance, development work, and the academe. He holds a Master in Public Policy degree from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and a bachelor’s degree in Economics from the University of San Carlos, Cebu City Philippines.

# BIOGRAPHIES *OSCE Academy Organizing Team*



**VICTORIA ORAZOVA**  
*Head of the International Office and a  
Youth Focal Point of the  
OSCE Academy*

**Victoria Orazova** is the Head of the International Office and a Youth Focal Point of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. For the past ten years, she has been coordinating the work of the Alumni Network as well as Partnerships of the OSCE Academy. As a Youth Focal Point, she closely works on youth-related initiatives with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the Secretariat. She did her MA in Politics and Security (Central Asia) at the OSCE Academy, and BA in International and Comparative Politics at the American University of Central Asia.

# BIOGRAPHIES *KAS PDA Organizing Team*



**TAN YONG BENG**  
Administration Assistant  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung,  
Regional Programme Political  
Dialogue Asia

**Tan Yong Beng** is a Project Assistant for KAS Singapore Office for 2021 and he is assisting on the development of an online learning platform and the syllabus for the KASYP programme. Tan Yong Beng is currently pursuing the Master of Public Policy (MPP) programme at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. He graduated from the Singapore Management University (SMU) with Bachelor of Science (Economics) and Bachelor of Social Science (Political Science). Prior to pursuing his MPP, Yong Beng was an assistant manager at the Civil Service College Singapore, designing capacity building programmes and sharing Singapore's development experience with other foreign government officials. In his three-year stint at CSC International department, he was with the East Asia team and the Middle East, South Asia team.



**RUBIAH MOHAMED**  
Administration Assistant  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Regional  
Programme Political Dialogue Asia

**Rubiah Mohamed** has been working with the Regional Programme Political Dialogue with Asia and the Pacific at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Singapore office since 2014. She supports the team in Singapore with organisation and preparation of events, especially in logistical matters with flight bookings and visa arrangements. Rubiah also supports the ongoing daily activities and administrative affairs of the KAS office.



**KISMET ABU BAKAR**  
Regional Admin Executive  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Regional  
Programme Political Dialogue Asia

**Kismet Abu Bakar** has been with KAS PDA since January 2016. She started her journey in KAS as a Secretary and has now since move on to the role of Regional Admin Executive. She assists PDA in the back end administration of the logistics of events. As she is also keen in social media functions, she assists the team in the planning and execution of social media posts through the KAS PDA Facebook page. Her administrative experiences have been cultivated through experiences in various MNCs, advertising agencies and also a Singapore statutory board. She is also currently a part time student in the area of social services as she wishes to understand further on how society's could be helped through the understanding of human behavior.

# BIOGRAPHIES *Speakers*



**CHRISTIAN SCHAFFERER**

Associate Professor, Department of International Trade, Overseas Chinese University, Taiwan

**Christian Schafferer** is Associate Professor at the Department of International Trade, Overseas Chinese University, Taiwan. He has served as President of the Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA), President of the Austrian Association of East Asian Studies, and founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Contemporary Eastern Asia* (JCEA). His research interests embrace political and economic studies with special reference to East Asian societies; current research projects deal with the impact of social media on electoral campaigns and democratization in Asia.



**ROGER DO**

CEO & Founder, AutoPolitic

**Roger Do** is the CEO and founder of AutoPolitic, an Artificial Intelligence election management system that helps the campaign manager run the campaign. He studied Philosophy at UC Berkeley, an MBA and degree in cloud computation. He got interested in the art of election in high school, promoted social causes in college, and ran a non-profit for immigrant children.

After returning to Asia, he formed AutoPolitic which has so far been part of over 92 campaigns, while winning 75% of the time, operating at both strategic and tactical levels. He is currently working with Ukrainian volunteers through their embassies to combat Russian disinformation and influence across ASEAN



**PROF. JULIO C. TEEHANKEE**

Professor of Political Science and International Studies at De La Salle University, Philippines

**Prof. Julio C. Teehankee** is an educator, researcher, and political consultant with a wide experience in electoral and political party related activities since 1984. He has continuously worked to bridge theory and practice in academic and other professional endeavors. He has written and published extensively on elections and political parties in the Philippines and Asia. He has participated in several election campaigns in the Philippines and has served as adviser to presidential candidates. Currently, he is a Professor of Political Science and International Studies at De La Salle University where he served as Chair of the Political Science Department (1994-2007); Chair of the International Studies Department (2008-2013); and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts (2013-2017).

# BIOGRAPHIES *Speakers*



**NEHA JOSHI**

National Media Co-Incharge, Youth Wing Bharatiya Janata Party & Spokesperson for Bharatiya Janata Party, India

***Neha Joshi** is the National Media Co-Incharge for Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of BJP. She is also a spokesperson for the BJP and represents the party on various media platforms. In addition, Neha is a development professional with a Social Work Degree from George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University. She has worked in development programs and projects across India, her core expertise being program planning, design, capacity building and evaluation for non-profit organizations. With a keen interest in development and politics, she designed a program for capacity building of Women Panchayat representatives by leveraging community institutions.*

*Neha also has experience in working in post-disaster scenarios, having co-led a “Resilient Housing Reconstruction” program and rehabilitation initiatives after the 2013 floods in the Himalayan State of Uttarakhand. Currently, Neha works as an advisor in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), Government of India. Her focus is the hugely successful ‘Ujjwala’ programme through which 60 million poor women have been given free gas connections. She has co-designed the ‘Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat’ Initiative, a nation-wide effort that aims to increase and sustain clean energy adoption amongst new users. A passionate speaker, Neha often represents the party and government at domestic and international platforms, sharing the narrative of India’s growth story.*



**ALLEN HICKEN**

Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan

***Allen Hicken** is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan where I am also an affiliate at the Center for Political Studies, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. My work focuses on political parties, institutions, political economy, with a special focus on Southeast Asia. I focus mainly on Thailand and the Philippines but I have also carried out research in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, and Cambodia. My work on parties and party systems include two books, *Building Party Systems in Developing Democracies*, (Cambridge), which looks at parties and elections in Thailand and the Philippines, and *Party and Party System Institutionalization in Asia* (Cambridge) co-edited with Erik Kuhonta. My most recent project is a multi-year, mutl-country of clientelism and money politics in Southeast Asia, culminating in a co-authored book, *Mobilizing for Elections: Patronage and Political Machines in Southeast Asia*, forthcoming from Cambridge. I am also the editor or co-editor of *Politics of Modern Southeast Asia: Critical Issues in Modern Politics* (Routledge) and *Electoral Dynamics in the Philippines: Money Politics, Patronage and Clientelism at the Grassroots* (NUS).*

# BIOGRAPHIES *Speakers*



**DR. EMILBEK DZHURAEV**

Senior Lecturer, MA program - Politics and Security at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

*Dr. Emilbek Dzhuraev holds a PhD in political science from the University of Maryland – College Park (USA), with a dissertation on republican constitutional theory and its application in developing societies. He is a Senior Lecturer in the MA program in Politics and Security at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. His research interests are in state-building, democratization and constitutional development in Central Asia as well as Central Asian foreign policies, security and geopolitics. He is a research fellow with the Bishkek Policy Group and Crossroads - Central Asia and Program Director at the Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan.*



**PROF. WILLIAM CASE**

Head of School of Politics, History and International Relations at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus.

*Prof. William Case is Professor and Head of School of Politics, History and International Relations at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. He was previously Professor of Southeast Asian politics and Director of the Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC) at City University of Hong Kong; Associate Professor in the Department of International Business and Asian Studies at Griffith University (Brisbane, Australia); Lecturer at University College, University of New South Wales, Australian Defense Force Academy; and Adjunct Lecturer at MARA University (Institute) of Technology (Shah Alam, Malaysia). He has also held visiting or research positions at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University; Ateneo de Manila University; University of Malaya; the Yuchengco Center at De La Salle University (Manila); National University of Malaysia; University of the Philippines at Diliman; Chulalongkorn University; and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (Jakarta). His latest sole author book is "Populist Threats and Democracy's Fate in Southeast Asia: Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia (Routledge 2017).*



**DR. EMIR KULOV**

Associate Professor in the Department of International and Comparative Politics at the American University of Central Asia

*Dr. Emir Kulov, PhD, is Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of International and Comparative Politics at the American University of Central Asia. Prior to this, he had worked as an Assistant Lecturer at the University Kent leading undergraduate seminar sessions in British Politics and Democratization. Emir's research interests include party and electoral politics in new democracies, political regime typologies, contentious politics, representation and parliamentarism. Emir holds PhD in Politics and Government from the University of Kent (UK). His thesis, titled 'Party institutionalization in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: Between Political Uncertainty and the Logic of Electoral Mobilization', examined the contextual effects of political and institutional uncertainties on party elite behaviour in relation to prevalent strategies of party organization and voter mobilization.*



# BIOGRAPHIES *Speakers*



**JARGALAN BATBAYAR**  
Democratic Party, Women's Wing,  
Mongolia

**Jargalan Batbayar** is Vice-Chairwoman of the Democratic Women's Union, the women's wing of the Democratic Party of Mongolia. With more than 10 years of experience as an elected party official, she currently serves as member of the Democratic Party's national governing body, the National Policy Council. In 2020, Jargalan was elected Vice-Chairwoman of the Democratic Party. Most recently, Jargalan has been actively involved in redrafting the Democratic Party charter and political manifesto. Jargalan graduated from Columbia University with a Bachelor of Arts in economics. Besides her political work, she is also an entrepreneur with diverse business interests.



**DR. BRIDGET WELSH**  
Honorary Research Associate with the  
University of Nottingham Asia  
Research Institute Malaysia

**Dr. Bridget Welsh** is currently Honorary Research Associate with the University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute Malaysia (UoNARI-M) based in Kuala Lumpur. She is also a Senior Research Associate of the Hu Feng Center for East Asia Democratic Studies of National Taiwan University and a Senior Associate Fellow of The Habibie Center. She specializes in Southeast Asian politics, with a focus on Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Indonesia. She is committed to fostering engagement, mutual understanding and empowerment.



**ZHYLDYZ ABDYLDАEVA**  
Gender Equity & Social Inclusion  
Manager

**Zhyldyz Abdylдаeva** serves as Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Manager within the USAID's Active Communities Project in Kyrgyzstan and leads the Women's Leadership component that contributes to strengthen Women's political participation both at national and local levels. She also worked as Gender and Social Equity Officer in the HELVETAS Kyrgyzstan for more than 4 years and has been involved in development projects over the span of last 13 years. Equipped with two Master's degrees, most recently at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, she has acquired both a broad scope of knowledge and expertise in regional and domestic gender-related policies and on-ground challenges, as well as the tools necessary to tackle them.

# BIOGRAPHIES *Speakers*



**DR. MARCIN WALECKI**  
Visiting Fellow at St Antony's College,  
Oxford University

*Dr. Marcin Walecki has over 25 years of democratic governance, elections, rule of law, anti-corruption, academic and management experience working in more than 50 countries around the world. Former Head of Democratization Department of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, one of the world's principal regional human rights bodies and the first Executive Director of the European Partnership for Democracy ([www.epd.eu](http://www.epd.eu)). Consulted on, and conducted Council of Europe, USAID, EU, DFID, IDEA, OECD, UNODC and UNDEF democratization programmes. He has written for numerous publications on democratisation, political corruption, elections, women political participation and political parties. Polish citizen holds a DPhil in Politics from St. Antony's College at Oxford University and a Master's in Law (Hons, Class I) from the Department of Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw.*



**BANN SENG TAN**  
Assistant Professor of Political Science  
and International Relations at Ashoka  
University, India

*Bann Seng Tan is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Ashoka University, India. Before Ashoka, he was an Assistant Professor at Bogazici University, Turkey and has taught at the College of William and Mary, at Queens College (CUNY) and at Hunter College (CUNY). He received his PhD in Political Science from the Graduate Center at the City University New York (CUNY). He was also a senior research scholar at New York University and is part of the AidData Research Consortium at William and Mary. He does research on the causes and effects of democratization. His dissertation was on the effects of democratization on interstate conflict behavior (the democratic peace). His first book, *International Aid and Democracy Promotion: Liberalization at the Margins*, articulates a way to promote political reforms despite the pushback by recipients and the relative indifference of Western donors.*

# BIOGRAPHIES *Guest Experts*



**DON S. LEE**

Assistant Professor, Graduate School  
of Governance at Sungkyunkwan  
University, South Korea

**Don S. Lee** is an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Governance at Sungkyunkwan University. He received a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, San Diego. His research interests lie at the intersection of the political economy of institutions and public administration/policy. His research has been published or is forthcoming in *Comparative Political Studies*, *Governance*, *Oxford Handbook*, *Policy & Politics*, *Public Administration Review*, and among others.



**JASMIN DALL'AGNOLA**

Associate Research Fellow,  
OSCE Academy

**Jasmin Dall'Agnola** holds a PhD in Politics and International Relations from Oxford Brookes University. She is an Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Her research interest centers on the relationship between gender, governance and technology in post-Soviet Central Asia. Her postdoc project has been awarded a prestigious two-year, full-time Postdoc.Mobility Fellowship from the Swiss National Science Foundation, to explore the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on smart city technologies in Central Asia. So far, her research has been published in numerous leading peer-reviewed academic journals, including *Europe-Asia Studies*, *religions* and *Central Asian Affairs*. In her role as founder and acting chair of the Eurasian, East and Central European Studies Women Academics Forum (@EECES WAF), Jasmin is involved in various collaborative research and networking endeavors to address gender disparity in academia.



**PROF. AIRO HINO**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Political Science &  
Economics, Waseda University

**Professor Airo Hino** graduated from the School of Political Science and Economics at Waseda University—completing the Master's Program in the Graduate School of Political Science there—and then received a Ph.D in Political Science from the University of Essex in the UK. He was a research fellow in the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, received a government sponsored foreign study scholarship from the Region of Flanders, Belgium (Institute of Social and Political Opinion Research, Catholic University of Leuven), and served as a fellow at the Center of Comparative Politics, Catholic University of New Louvain [Belgium]. After holding the position of Associate Professor at Tokyo Metropolitan University, he took up his current position as Associate Professor on the Faculty of Political Science and Economics at Waseda University in 2010.

# BIOGRAPHIES *Guest Experts*



**DR. ALEXANDER WOLTERS**  
Director, OSCE Academy in Bishkek

**Alexander Wolters** is Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. He has published on security and political developments in Central Asia as well as on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on Central Asian affairs in several universities in the region. As Director of the OSCE Academy, he has set the priority for the institute to develop research capacity and portfolio, among other issues on Chinese policy regarding Central Asia and on the BRI specifically. He holds an MA in Cultural Sciences and a PhD from European University Viadrina / Frankfurt an der Oder.



**CAROLE SPARY**  
Associate Professor, School of Politics and International Relations and Director of the Asia Research Institute, University of Nottingham

**Carole Spary** is Associate Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations and Director of the Asia Research Institute at the University of Nottingham. Her research expertise covers democracy, development politics, representation, and gender, and she specialises in gender and political representation in India. She is the author of *Performing Representation: Women Members in the Indian Parliament* (with Shirin M.Rai, Oxford University Press, 2019) and *Gender, Development, and the State in India* (2019, Routledge). She has collaborated with practitioners of democratic politics in India, including parliamentary officials and advocacy groups seeking gender equality in Indian electoral politics. Prior to joining Nottingham she held positions at the Universities of York and Warwick, and has a PhD in Politics from the University of Bristol. She is the former convenor of the Politics of South Asia Specialist Group of the UK's Political Studies Association.



**PROF. INGRID VAN BIEZEN**  
Professor in Comparative Politics, Leiden University

**Ingrid van Biezen** is Professor of Comparative Politics at Leiden University. Her research interests lie primarily in the field of democratization and institutional development, with a particular concern for the role of political parties in contemporary democracies. Her current research concentrates on the various empirical and normative dimensions of party regulation and its implications for modern party democracy. In this context, she has directed a large research project *Re-conceptualising party democracy*, funded by the European Research Council. She is the author of, amongst others, *Political Parties in New Democracies* (Palgrave, 2003), editor of *On Parties, Party Systems and Democracy* (ECPR Press, 2014) and co-editor of *Regulating Political Parties* (Leiden University Press, 2014) and *The Regulation of Post-Communist Party Politics* (Routledge, 2018). She has published widely on comparative party politics, party organization, political finance, and democratic theory in journals such as the *British Journal of Political Science*, the *European Journal of Political Research*, *Government & Opposition*, *Party Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, and *West European Politics*.

# BIOGRAPHIES *Guest Experts*



**DR. NURSEIT NIYAZBEKOV**  
Assistant Professor, Department of  
International Relations,  
KIMEP University

**Dr. Nurseit Niyazbekov** is an assistant professor in the Department of International Relations in KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. He is researching and consulting various international media and think tanks in the areas of post-communist transitions, democratization, Central Asian state building and protest mobilization. He was a visiting research fellow at the University of Michigan and SciencePO. He obtained his PhD and MSc degrees in Politics and Sociology from the University of Oxford. Research interests: democratization, popular protests, social capital, political culture, Central Asian affairs.

# BIOGRAPHIES *Participants*



**WASISTO RAHARJO JATI**  
Junior Scientist,  
Indonesian Institute of Sciences  
Indonesia

**Wasisto Raharjo Jati** earned a bachelor degree in Politics and Government studies from Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in 2012. He also holds a Master of Political Science (Advanced) degree from College of Arts and Social Sciences and College of Asia and The Pacific, The Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, Australia in 2020. Wasisto have been working at Center for Politics – Indonesian Institute of Science (Pusat Penelitian Politik – Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (P2P-LIPI) since 2014. His main research interests include voting behavior, politics of Indonesian middle class, and political movement



**VINCENT NOEL AUREUS**  
Partner, Victoriano Tiu & Aureus  
Law Firm  
Philippines

**Vincent Noel A. Aureus** graduated with a degree in Political Science in 2010. In 2015, he became a lawyer and engaged in private practice as a Junior Associate for a law office. He then joined government in 2016 and served in various staff positions in the Philippine House of Representatives, 17th and 18th Congress. For the 2022 elections, he was part of the team that assisted a national political party's secretariat. He is presently also a Partner in the Law Firm: Victoriano Tiu & Aureus.



**PONLEU SOUN**  
Freelance Researcher,  
Mahidol University,  
Cambodia

**Ponleu Soun** is a scholarship holder and graduate student in the Asia Pacific Master of Arts in Human Rights and Democratization program of Global Campus Asia-Pacific region jointly offered by the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, and Universitas Gadjah Mada. He is also an alumnus of the May 18 Academy Program and Human Rights Research Training organized by the May 18 Memorial Foundation of the Republic of Korea and Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Cambodia, respectively. His research areas include the freedom of expression, digital rights, consumer rights, future of work of persons with disabilities, the right to employment of persons with disabilities, and the impact of hydropower dams on indigenous communities in Cambodia.

# BIOGRAPHIES *Participants*



**MUH AFIT KHOMSANI**  
Masters Candidate, University of  
Indonesia, Indonesia

**Muh Afrit Khomsani** Muh Afrit Khomsani is a research student in the field of international relations and politics with sub-field democracy, elections, corruption, local politics, and social movement. By examining critiques for Islamic reason from Gramsci's perspective, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts (B.A) in Islamic Theology and Philosophy department, Walisongo State Islamic University (UIN), Semarang, in 2018. Currently, he published a journal article about new anti-corruption movements in Indonesia after the 1998 reform. He frequently speaks at youth forums and writes opinions in mass media. He has been a youth activist since college. Currently, he is the member of PB PMII (Indonesian Islamic Student Movement) for 2021-2024, and also a junior researcher of the Network for Indonesian Democratic Society (Netfid Indonesia). Now, he is pursuing his master's degree in international relations at the University of Indonesia, focusing on transnational studies with his final project about Localising Anti-Corruption as Global Norm.



**LEONARDO JAMINOLA**  
Masters Candidate, University of the  
Philippines Diliman  
Philippines

**Leonardo Jaminola III** obtained their undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of the Philippines Diliman. Currently, they are pursuing a master's degree in Demography at the same university. They also completed the Global Studies in Asia Program at the University of Tokyo in 2018. They have worked as a Research Assistant at the Ateneo School of Government and published studies on political dynasties, conglomerates, populism, and Philippine politics, among others. Alongside their studies, they are currently working at the Philippine Space Agency under the Space Policy and International Cooperation Bureau. They received the Josefina V. Cabigon Memorial Scholarship (JVCMS) Research Paper Grant in 2022 to support the completion of their thesis. Their research interests include political inequality, ageing, the environment, health policy, social movements, and political economy.



**ISURI W. SIRIWARDHANA**  
Research Associate and Lecturer,  
Bandaranaike Centre for  
International Studies (BCIS)  
Sri Lanka

**Isuri W. Siriwardhana** is a Research Associate and Lecturer at the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS). She is also a Visiting Lecturer at Open University of Sri Lanka. She has done her Bachelor and Master Degrees in Political Science at the University of Colombo. Her research interests mainly focus on democracy, environmental democracy and political parties. Her current research work is based on Internal Party Democracy (IPD) in Sri Lanka.

# BIOGRAPHIES *Participants*



**Javaria Sehar** is a visiting faculty member in Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University. She earned a degree of MS Political Science from Lahore College for Women University. She is also a member of International Political Science Association (IPSA). Her research interests focus on comparative politics with special reference to Federalism, Democracy, Religion and Political parties of South Asia.

**JAVARIA SEHAR**

Faculty Member, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University  
Pakistan



**Yrys Abdieva** has two master degrees: one in politics and security (OSCE Academy) and another in sociology: social intervention, European comparison, migration (Strasbourg university). With a social and political science background, her areas of expertise include the politics of Central Asia, the rise of extreme right wing parties in Europe, security-oriented organisations such as OSCE, NATO and international migration. She has worked at various NGOs and INGOs as USAID, International Alert, ACCELS, European Parliament delegation on political and social development projects (advocacy, democracy building, religion, education) in Central Asia. Currently, she works in the asylum field.

**YRYS ABDIEVA**

Administrative and Social Assistance to Asylum Seekers, Adoma  
Kyrgyzstan



**Enkhtsetseg Dagva** is a program manager for governance at the Open Society Forum Mongolia. Her brief covers political financing, elections, government accountability and transparency. Since joining OSF in 2006 she has overseen Open Forum's election monitoring and advocacy efforts to promote free and fair election and served as the coordinator and spokesperson for the Fair Election Network, a coalition of election monitoring groups founded by the initiative of OSF in 2008.

**ENKHTSETSEG DAGVA**

Program Manager for Governance at the Open Society Forum Mongolia,  
Mongolia



**Gulzar Karybekova** is the Director of Centre of Actual Problems and Development, Public Fund, based in Kyrgyzstan. She earned her higher University Degree at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in 2011 with the major of International Relations and received Bachelor Degree in Law at the Kyrgyz State National University in 2001 and studies for one more year to 5-year University Diploma of Specialist. In 2013, she was awarded the Diploma of Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Commonwealth of Independent States (Saint-Petersburg, Russia), as a winner of the research work among youth of Kyrgyzstan on "Youth problems in CIS countries and ways to solve them". Currently, she is PhD Candidate in political – legal field of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic.

**GULZAR KARYBEKOVA**

Director, Centre of Actual Problems and Development, Public Fund,  
Kyrgyzstan



# ORGANISATIONS



The **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung** (Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia) is a political foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany. Founded in 1964, it was named after the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Konrad Adenauer. KAS offers political and social training activities, conducts research, grants scholarships to students, and supports and encourages international understanding and economic development. In addition to the activities of the local KAS offices in many Asian countries, the regional programme "Political Dialogue Asia" organises and sponsors international conferences and seminars. Its numerous events and diverse projects focus on political and social development, political parties and civil society, social market economy, regional security, international cooperation and Asia-Europe relations, see <https://www.kas.de/en/web/politikdialog-asien>



The **OSCE Academy** in Bishkek promotes regional cooperation, conflict prevention and good governance in Central Asia through offering post-graduate education, professional training and intellectual exchange. The Academy pursues its mission through particular set of activities, including: Providing expert training and education in human rights, media development, conflict prevention, management, resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation, and in economics, governance and development; Conducting demand-driven and practice-oriented research on relevant Central Asian topics aiming at local, national and regional security-building; Supporting the exchange of information and scientific co-operation among Central Asian academic institutions and their international partner organizations and Establishing and developing a regional network of professionals and researchers, see <http://www.osce-academy.net/en/>



The **Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy (REPRESENT)** is a collaboration between the University of Birmingham and the University of Nottingham. It brings together and drives innovative and interdisciplinary research on the falling social penetration of established parties, the rise of populism, and the effectiveness of aid to support democracy. REPRESENT provides a 'hub' for knowledge exchange between academic researchers, policy-makers and practitioners from Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Asia. For more information, see [www.represent-research.org](http://www.represent-research.org)

# ORGANISATIONS



University of  
Nottingham  
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The **University of Nottingham-Malaysia** is the branch campus of the University of Nottingham UK. More than 5000 students are enrolled on the campus, and they come to us from more than 100 countries. Nottingham Malaysia thus contributes strongly to the UNUK's internationalizing mission. In 2020, the university celebrated its 20th year in Malaysia, making it the oldest international university in the country and one of the most highly regarded private institutions. With a fully articulated curriculum, Nottingham Malaysia also features a vibrant Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Further, within this Faculty, members of the School of Politics, History and International Relations, while mostly focused on cross-national dynamics, also possess research strengths in questions about political regime types and change, especially in the Southeast Asian region, where the 1st Asian Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy is to take place.



**Asian Political & International Studies Association** - In November 2001, 30 academics from research institutes, think tanks, and universities introduced the idea of launching an Asian-based academic organization dedicated to the advancement of political and international studies. It was the general consensus of the meeting that Asian scholars had been marginalized from the decision-making processes of the Western-based associations of a similar nature. Asian schools of thought had been stifled as a consequence of the American hegemony in the social sciences, and that the state of Asian studies in general was underdeveloped. In the light of these concerns, APISA was established and held its founding congress in Singapore in 2003.

Patterned after academic institutions in North America and Western Europe, the organization seeks to promote theoretically informed comparative scholarships, based on the Asian experience in the fields of conflict and peace, democracy and governance, development, and area studies.