Contents

01 Introduction
02 Welcome
03 Co-directors’ message
04 Flinders University
06 Our research
08 Our people
10 Our activities
11 Our value
12 Our collaborations and partnerships
13 Partnering with us
The Centre for United States and Asia Policy Studies (CUSAPS) provides in-depth and up-to-date information on policy issues affecting Australia’s relationships with the US and Asia.

CUSAPS is an internationally regarded source of high quality, accessible research on policy issues between Australia, the US and Asia, offering uniquely integrated perspectives on the respective players in the Asia Pacific.

Grounded in sound policy-related research, CUSAPS acts as a hub for the study of Australia’s single most important economic and strategic issue – how to balance its deepening economic and strategic ties with Asia and with the United States.

CUSAPS considers how Australia is affected by issues such as:  
- the changing strategic relationships in Asia as the new US policy of strategic rebalancing in the Asia Pacific is realised  
- the growth in defence spending and capabilities of major Asian powers including China, Japan, India and Indonesia  
- the shift in economic power to the region as Asian economic growth continues  
- domestic policy differences and similarities among the states shaping the Asia Pacific region.

CUSAPS is committed to sharing knowledge and expertise with the community. The Centre provides:  
- an excellent environment for researchers  
- information and advice for policy-makers  
- insights and engaging analysis for the media  
- strategic and commercial-related advice for business.
Flinders University is renowned for its strong international links with universities and research institutions across North America and Asia.

The Centre’s integrated approach to exploring strategic and economic dynamics both within and between the United States and Asia, and how they interplay with Australia’s own domestic and foreign policies, makes this Centre unique in Australia.

Flinders University is extremely pleased with the first steps of the Centre and continues to support the Centre in achieving its long term vision to be a globally recognised source of accessible research and advice on current and future issues in the Asia Pacific.

Professor Michael Barber
Vice-Chancellor and President, Flinders University
Co-directors’ message

We are proud of what the Centre has achieved in its first year. It will continue to produce timely insights into the key policy issues facing the Asia Pacific.

CUSAPS is committed to fostering strong and productive research links between our academic affiliates, higher degree research students and partners beyond Flinders’ outstanding research into the key policy issues in the region.

CUSAPS’ focus is understanding the implications of domestic policy developments in the United States and major Asian powers for global and regional progress and stability, and for Australia’s economic and strategic interests.

We are very proud to have well-established and respected partners domestically and internationally. These partnerships have allowed us to communicate up-to-date research across a broad range of expertise from security and defence to resources and energy.

The Centre will continue to offer its expertise to the business community through services ranging from strategic business advice to short courses on issues such as the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement’s strategic implications and economic results.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss how the Centre can work with you and your organisation to provide expertise on up-to-date policy issues affecting the Asia Pacific region.

Professor Malcolm Cook
Co-director, Centre for United States and Asia Policy Studies, and Dean, School of International Studies, Flinders University

Professor Don DeBats
Co-director, Centre for United States and Asia Policy Studies, and Head, American Studies, Flinders University
The Centre for United States and Asia Policy Studies is housed with the Flinders University School of International Studies in the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences and draws on the outstanding research resources of the Flinders academic community.
Flinders is a leading international university in Australia, distinguished by its boldness, vigour and imagination

The School of International Studies at Flinders prides itself on quality teaching, innovative topics and courses, and research with impact. The School brings together five social science disciplines united by their commitment to understanding the changing world and Australia’s place in it. The five disciplines are:

- **American Studies**
  The only specialist American Studies program in South Australia. It offers a comprehensive examination of the United States through multiple topics in American history, politics, economics, foreign policy, and culture. American Studies offers the Washington Internship Program which allows selected students to spend six weeks attached to a governmental or public policy office in Washington, DC.

- **Flinders Asia Centre**
  Asian Studies is a multi-disciplinary field, bringing together staff from Economics, Geography, History and Politics. The Indonesian Language major reflects the program’s deep commitment to the study of that nation.

- **History**
  Flinders has an impressive record in the teaching and research of Australian, European and international history.

- **International Relations**
  The discipline of International Relations at Flinders studies global politics and economics, security and military strategy, as well as national societies and cultures.

- **Centre for Development Studies**
  Flinders has a long tradition of teaching Development Studies, focused on social, political and economic changes and the policy challenges they present.

**Australian-American Fulbright**
Flinders University was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Political Science by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission following a national, competitive selection process for the years 2011–2016.

The Fulbright Flinders University Distinguished Chair Program provides a unique opportunity to undertake collaborative research into key political issues and related issues of importance to both Australia and the United States.
The Centre is committed to conducting and delivering high quality research that contributes to academic enquiry, and which can inform policy-making and business decisions. We are committed to drawing out the implications of the region’s shifting strategic and economic relationships, with particular reference to the United States and major Asian powers.

Underpinning all our products and advice is our deep expertise and sound evidence.

We offer a unique, integrated perspective on Australia, the US and Asia
The Centre engages in research related to all major powers in Asia – not just India or China or Japan.
This enables a truly multidimensional consideration of the drivers of change, shifts in relationships, challenges and pressures, opportunities and threats.

The Centre will focus on academic excellence and effectiveness
The Centre provides the opportunity for researchers in the field to conduct their work in a supportive environment.
We will continue to collaborate with other research organisations, governments and the private sector on research topics of mutual interest.

The Centre connects with the wider policy and business community
The Centre provides insights into current and prospective strategic issues and developments in the Asia Pacific region.
We welcome opportunities to partner with private sector interests in relevant research areas, and in the sponsorship of events and publications of value to them.
The Centre will further develop its national and international reputation

The Centre aims to demonstrate the value of its work to key stakeholders through the provision of high quality research in the five core research areas.

The following are examples of key deliverables alongside our research:

- annual conferences on major and current policy issues in the region
- a range of policy briefs and working papers on issues relevant to the Centre’s expertise and to the community
- the development of relationships with academic, public and private sector organisations that will increase the profile of the Centre in Australia and globally
- a website that provides a relevant source of information about developments in the region and presents the Centre’s research outputs to a wide audience
- publicising the activities and findings of the Centre through public commentary and media activities.

Visit the Flinders CUSAPS website for details on CUSAPS research members.

The Centre focuses on five principal areas of policy concern:

1. Asia’s changing strategic landscapes
2. Australian and US security and defence policy and their links to other US allies in the region
3. Australia’s economic relations with Asia and the United States
4. Pressing national and transnational governance issues, and political processes relevant to the region
5. Specific policy analyses focusing on domestic governance, energy, and environmental issues in the Asia Pacific
Our people

CUSAPS has a dedicated team to support its growth and development

The Centre continues to develop and grow available resources to support research and early career academics. Visit the CUSAPS website for details on research members.

The Centre’s researchers are led and supported by a small and cohesive management team consisting of:

- **Professor Don DeBats**  
  (Co-director)  
  Head of American Studies at Flinders University. His research interests cover contemporary and past US politics.

- **Professor Malcolm Cook**  
  (Co-director)  
  Former Program Director for East Asia at the Lowy Institute. He is now Dean of the School of International Studies.

- **Dr Maryanne Kelton**  
  (Deputy Director)  
  Senior lecturer in International Relations. Her research interests include alliance relations, Australian foreign policy and US economic statecraft.

- **Ali Lehman**  
  (Research Development Officer)  
  Liaison with outside bodies and scholars, organising conferences and promotional materials, and assisting with publications and website development.
Research higher degree students

The Centre encompasses research higher degree students working on policy issues relevant to relationships between Australia, the US and Asia. Some of our current PhD candidates have provided insight into their current research activities.

Jesse Gale-Barker

Jesse’s research examines how the development of a US-guided pluralistic security community has resulted in the strengthening of ties between Japan and Australia. As the United States rebalances its force structure in the Indo-Pacific, Australia and Japan are in a commanding position to be the chief beneficiaries of an ‘Asian-centric’ United States. Whilst traditional alliance theories provide some answers to the above questions, they are unable to explain particular US choices at critical junctures in the contemporary era.

Dahlia Martin

Dahlia’s research project ‘Family and the Melayu Baru: Motherhood and Malay Muslim Identity’ investigates how ideologies of motherhood intersect with Malay Muslim identity. To achieve this, the research project looks at the history of and processes involved in reforming Malay Muslim identity through a gendered lens, and also considers the lived experiences of Malay Muslim mothers in “mothering” a “new Malay” (Melayu Baru).

Edwin MB Tambunan

Political elites are fundamental in shaping how warring parties understand their motivations and whether the terms of a peace agreement are acceptable or not. Edwin’s research is concerned with the role of elites’ ideas in bringing about a peaceful end to long-run violent separatism conflict by looking at two case studies: Aceh (Indonesia) and Southern Provinces (Thailand). Research undertaken investigates what ideas matter, how it is constructed, and how it shape adversaries’ decision to participate in the peace process.

Dave Willis

Dave’s research seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of Indonesia’s domestic politics and how they influence its geostrategic position within the region and the rest of the world. Questions of Indonesia’s future alignment and whether it balances, bandwagons or seeks neutrality are especially important to Australia, for whom Indonesia sits to the near north and poses challenges for both its economic and security future.
The Centre for United States and Asia Policy Studies, in partnership with Flinders University, currently undertakes a number of activities that support our expertise in the US and Asia.

**Washington Internship Program**

The American Studies program at Flinders created a unique Washington Internship Program that enables selected students to undertake six-week Congressional placements in the US capital.

The Washington Internship Program, a pioneering initiative sending Australian students of American politics to work in the United States Congress, has so far sent 76 highly qualified upper-year students from Flinders University to work on Capitol Hill.

This may well constitute a greater student intern presence in the US Congress than achieved by any other non-US university; certainly it represents the greatest presence on Capitol Hill achieved by any Australian university.

**Australian Consortium for ‘In-Country’ Indonesian Studies (ACICIS)**

ACICIS is an innovative, non-profit, national educational consortium that was established in 1994 to develop and coordinate high-quality, semester-long study programs at Indonesian partner universities for Australian university students.

The Flinders Asia Centre has a collaborative agreement with one of Indonesia’s foremost International Relations departments at Parahyangan University (Unpar) in Bandung, West Java. The program provides opportunities for staff and student exchanges and joint research and teaching projects.

It creates a unique opportunity for students and staff to experience in-country study at an Indonesian university.

**Activities**

In addition to our five core research areas, the Centre’s staff continue to:

- facilitate development of early career academics
- attract PhD candidates and high quality researchers to the Centre – including externally funded places
- provide practical advice to public and private sector organisations looking to operate in the region
- deliver short courses to professionals in areas relevant to the Centre’s expertise
- institute a visiting Fellowship program
- develop relationships with academic, public and private sector organisations that will increase the profile of the Centre in Australia and globally.
Our value

The Centre offers exceptional value to the community and those who collaborate and partner with us

Researchers
At the heart of the Centre is a strong commitment to provide the best environment for researchers to come together and develop their understanding of policy issues within the Asia Pacific region.

The Centre focuses on conducting the very best research that explores critical regional issues in an accessible way, providing answers at both the conceptual and applied levels.

As the Centre’s reputation and profile grows, it will become a point of attraction for those researchers and research higher degree students wishing to come to Flinders University.

In addition to fostering opportunities for established experts, we will mentor a new generation of researchers in this vital public policy area.

Policy-makers
As a source of the most in-depth and up-to-date thinking on policy issues affecting Australia’s relationships in the region, we offer policy-makers access to practical advice on the regional issues affecting Australia’s key political and trading relationships.

Business
Through the provision of informed and applied research, the Centre will become a leading analytic source offering strategic and commercial-related advice on developments in the Asia Pacific region.

Businesses can source critical advice about the business environment in the Asia Pacific region and partner with the Centre to better understand critical commercial developments that could affect them.

The Centre is also in a position to offer short courses and other training to provide participants with robust and practical understanding of the realities of operating in the region.

Media
The Centre’s relationship to the public domain and wider policy debates is an important part of its mandate.

Staff within the Centre aim to submit timely, thought-provoking opinion pieces while also engaging in “real time” debates in different forms of electronic media, including social media.
Our collaborations and partnerships

The Centre takes a truly collaborative approach to ensure the most up-to-date and accessible research outcomes are achieved

In addition to Flinders University’s ongoing support, the Centre has a number of partners to ensure the high quality research is maintained.

Some of our key partners are:

**Australian-American Fulbright Commission**

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission is a non-profit organisation, established in Australia through a bi-national treaty between the Australian and United States governments in 1949 under the auspices of the United States Educational Foundation in Australia (USEFA).

**The Lowy Institute for International Policy**

The Lowy Institute is Australia’s leading international affairs think-tank with particular strengths in areas relevant to the activities of the Centre.

**Carnegie Mellon University Australia (CMUA)**

CMUA has access to an impressive list of American experts and practitioners whose research and interests are relevant to the aims and objectives of the Centre.

**Consulate General of the United States – Melbourne**

The Consul General maintains contact with senior Australian officials, both state and federal, within the consular district and keeps the Embassy and Washington informed of important political, economic and other developments affecting US interests.

**Public Affairs Section – the Embassy of United States Canberra**

The Public Affairs Section sponsors seminars, exhibits, speakers, and other programs where Australians and Americans can exchange ideas and information on economic issues, shared environmental concerns, American government and history, education, security, and a wide variety of other topics.

**Office of International Coordination – South Australian Government**

The Office of International Coordination (OIC) as part of its State Government Division, has been established to ensure the State has an integrated and strategic approach to its international activities that align with South Australia’s policy priorities.
Funding or co-funding applied research
The Centre welcomes the opportunity to work with other organisations that may have applied research interests within the Centre’s five core research areas.

The Centre’s researchers are available to assist in research opportunities and the Centre is willing to explore different funding options for applied research, ranging from fully independently funded, through to joint-funded and publicly funded options.

The Centre is also willing to host co-funded or fully funded researchers, and to work with other organisations to assist them to obtain public research funding through the Centre.

Providing in-kind support
The Centre welcomes collaboration with partners who wish to support it through the provision of in-kind support. This can range from the supply of staff through to the provision of vital services for the Centre (e.g., website hosting, audit services, etc.). Organisations that provide in-kind support will be given appropriate recognition.

Collaborating on events, publications and visit programs
The Centre will publish books, hold major conferences and provide a program of activities, all of which provide potential partnering or sponsorship opportunities.

The Centre will work collaboratively with sponsors to maximise their involvement.

Reviewing, commenting or providing advice
The Centre will also be available to conduct short-term consultancies to provide practical and rigorous advice on issues relating to its principal research interests.

Contact us
If you are interested in partnering with the Centre and would like to explore your options, in the first instance please contact:
Ms Ali Lehman, Research Development Officer
E: cusaps@flinders.edu.au | P: +61 8 8201 2186
W: flinders.edu.au/cusaps