



**ICAS**

Institute for China-America Studies

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT







ICAS  
Institute for China-America Studies

CELEBRATING  
5 YEARS



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the ICAS board of directors and advisors, I am pleased to present this snapshot of the work we undertook in 2019.

2019 presented a range of challenges for the world's most important bilateral relationship — an intensifying trade war between the two, the U.S.' labelling of China as a currency manipulator, President Donald Trump signing a bill supporting the Hong Kong protesters, Huawei suing the United States Government for banning U.S. federal agencies from using the telecom giant's equipment, and the higher frequency of competitive strategic interactions. The role of Taiwan, as well as the South China Sea, in this burgeoning US-China rivalry has become ever more subtle and complex. These geopolitical conflicts may expand to Africa too. The digital domain has become another concern in the U.S., given China's emerging innovation and technological capabilities.

That said, the efforts from both sides to improve the bilateral relationship should not be overlooked. U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He recently signed an extensive Phase One trade agreement, with important commitments memorialized in the area of technology transfers, intellectual property rights and exchange rate practices. The agreement was a welcome breakthrough in the nearly two-year trade war between the world's two largest economies. The two sides also maintained high-level communication with regard to management of tensions on the divided Korean peninsula.

In this coming U.S. presidential election year, we will observe both opportunities and uncertainties in the US-China relationship. As a Chinese think tank based in the heart of downtown Washington, DC, ICAS will continue building bridges to facilitate the exchange of ideas and people between China and the United States. We look forward to playing an active role in addressing key issues in the US-China relationship in need of greater mutual understanding.

We at ICAS are proud to present our achievements from the past year, and look forward to another year of continuing to produce important work that could, in our own small way, improve this critical bilateral relationship.

Dr. Nong Hong



**Dr. Nong Hong**  
Executive Director  
& Senior Fellow  
Institute for China-  
America Studies

# FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY BOARD



**Dr. Wu Shicun**  
Chair of the  
Advisory Board  
Institute for China-  
America Studies

Dear Friends,

The Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) is a half-decade old and I would like to congratulate it on this milestone. In the five years since its establishment, ICAS has emerged as a fresh voice in the Washington, DC think tank community.

All too often, the American narrative in China-U.S. relations focuses on U.S. policy alone, rather than looking at both sides of the relationship. ICAS seeks to rectify this imbalance, and has become an invaluable resource for news, information, and analysis regarding the most important bilateral relationship in the world. Books and journal articles by senior staff, as well as ICAS Reports, Issue Primers and Bulletins are increasingly read on both sides of the Pacific in ever-greater numbers.

2019 was a difficult year for China-U.S. relations. ICAS, nevertheless, was there every step of the way, leaving no stone unturned in its coverage of the bilateral relationship through its conferences, workshops, reports, opinion pieces and contributions to the global media narrative.

2020 will bring numerous challenges and perhaps opportunities, such as the Phase One trade agreement, to China-U.S. relations. I look forward to ICAS continuing to provide global audiences with its unique perspective on issues ranging from maritime affairs to trade, technology and development matters, and thereby build bridges that facilitate the exchange of ideas and people between China and the United States.

Dr. Wu Shicun



# ICAS 2019 IN NUMBERS

Atlanta,  
Fairbanks,  
Calgary,  
Dalian, Haikou, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Helsinki, Malmo, Brussel, Wollongong, and Kingston

**45** events participated  
around the world

New York, Philadelphia, Aspen,  
Anchorage, Toronto, Victoria,  
Halifax, Seoul, Shanghai,  
Halifax, Seoul, Shanghai,



**12k+**  
website views

**3.8k+**  
maritime tracker views

**416.9k+**  
Twitter engagements

**3**  
reports

**5**  
primers

**20**  
commentaries

**57**  
insights provided on  
the News

**21**  
news outlets

**7**  
delegation visits

**162**  
participants at ICAS  
Annual Conference

**10**  
conference &  
dialogues hosted

- The Arctic Institute
- George Washington University
- University of Maryland
- University of Istanbul
- Shanghai International Studies University
- Shanghai Economic and Information Technology Commission



# MARITIME TRACKERS

**M**aritime Asia encompasses two distinct sea areas – the East China Sea and the South China Sea. These seas have been characterized by long-standing territorial and maritime disputes that have largely remained unsettled for decades. The Arctic Region too has witnessed increasing attention from within and outside the region, as waterways once inaccessible have become navigable during the summer months and accessible to resource exploitation.

As one of the foremost bridges between U.S. and Chinese institutions and scholars, particularly in the area of strategic studies, ICAS is committed to creating learning tools for the public to better understand important maritime policy-related issues that concern the U.S.-China relationship as well as China's ties with its Asian neighbors and the U.S.'s ties with Maritime Asia. To this end, ICAS launched its South China Sea Tracker and East China Sea Tracker in 2019 to follow major events in Maritime Asia and beyond. One of the primary intentions of these trackers is to encourage discussion and analysis of complex maritime security and economic issues that impact the U.S.-China relationship.

The Arctic Tracker will be launched in 2020. These trackers are intended to be updated on a rolling basis in order to stay relevant and informative.



**South China Sea Tracker**



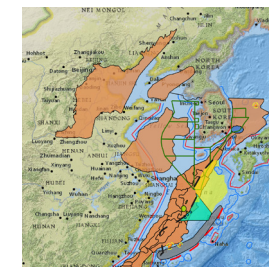
**East China Sea Tracker**



**Arctic Tracker**

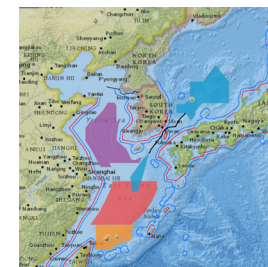
In 2019, ICAS introduced the first two of its three Maritime Trackers to facilitate understanding and analysis of complex maritime security issues in the Asia-Pacific. The Trackers combine geospatial analysis with qualitative research and is presented on a dashboard containing interactive data visualizations.

**Maritime Economy** Given the overlapping and disputed sovereign rights and jurisdiction claims in Maritime Asia, economic activity, such as commercial fishing and hydrocarbon exploration/exploitation, has necessarily become highly politicized in some cases. This has led to disputes regarding the access and utilization of potential and existing resources.



## Hydrocarbon Exploration/Exploitation

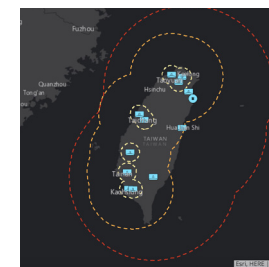
The Hydrocarbon Exploration/Exploitation Tracker presents the activities and disputes regarding the potential and existing hydrocarbon resources in the East China Sea.



## Fisheries Agreements

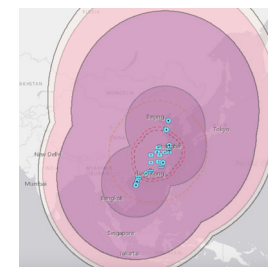
The Fisheries Agreements Tracker visualizes the agreements in the East China Sea.

**Maritime Security** The power dynamics in Maritime Asia have a direct impact on China, the U.S., and other parties with strategic interests in the region. The security dynamics in the South China Sea and the East China Sea has become more complicated as the U.S. pushes forward its Indo-Pacific Strategy and as China undergoes rapid naval modernization.



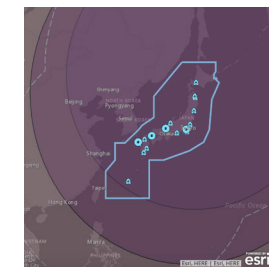
## Missile Defense

The Missile Defense Tracker presents the missile defense capability of the neighboring parties in the East China Sea.



## Integrated Naval Power

The Naval Power Tracker provides a visualization of the integrated naval combat capability of the neighboring parties in the East China Sea.



## Joint Air Power

The Air Power Tracker visualizes the air power projection of the neighboring parties in the East China Sea.



## Ground Power

The Ground Power Tracker shows the ground force capability of the neighboring parties in the East China Sea.



# 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Diagnosing Risks and Exploring Cooperation



**Panel 1:  
Risks of U.S.-China  
Strategic Competition**

**Keynote Luncheon Speaker:  
Ms. Susan Thornton**



This year's annual conference "China-U.S. Relations: Diagnosing Risks and Exploring Cooperation" featured two panels – the first one assessing the risks stemming from U.S.-China strategic competition, and the second one highlighting areas of U.S.-China cooperation in a global context.

The first panel observed that the U.S.-China relationship is currently poised at a critical juncture. Not since the normalization of relations 40 years ago has the bilateral relationship been tested so severely. The second panel concluded that U.S.-China strategic competition is not the sum of their bilateral relationship. The two countries can – and do – cooperate on issues of important global concern. The panels featured distinguished American and Chinese experts and tackled many of the key issues within this important bilateral relationship. Following the two panels, a keynote address was delivered over lunch.



**Panel 2:  
U.S.-China Cooperation in a  
Global Context**



# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



## Conference on U.S.-China Relations After the U.S. Midterm Election

January 19 | Atlanta, GA

ICAS co-hosted a public event with the Carter Center, Emory University and the National Institute for South China Sea Studies to discuss the outlook for U.S.-China relations and how the U.S. midterm election results may have impacted it.



## China-U.S.-Canada Trilateral Relations Roundtable Dialogue

April 26 | Washington D.C.

ICAS hosted an inaugural Trilateral Dialogue featuring Young Scholars from the United States, Canada and China, in order to bridge the gap in perceptions between the three countries. This Dialogue will continue to be held on a yearly basis.



## The 7th Asia-Pacific/Arctic Maritime Security Forum

September 24-25 | Halifax, Canada

The 7th annual forum was co-sponsored by the China Institute at the University of Alberta, the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, the Institute for China-America Studies, and Dalhousie University's Marine & Environmental Law Institute. At the Forum, ICAS unveiled its Maritime Trackers to a global audience for the first time.



## International Conference on Legal, Scientific and Economic Aspects of Deep Seabed Mining

November 14-16 | Kingston, Jamaica



ICAS co-sponsored the conference which discussed legal, economic and scientific aspects of the regime for deep seabed mining under the Law of the Sea Convention and the evolution of the International Seabed Authority since 1994.

## 43rd Annual Center for Oceans Law & Policy Conference Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction: Intractable Challenges & Potential Solutions

May 14-17 | Malmö, Sweden

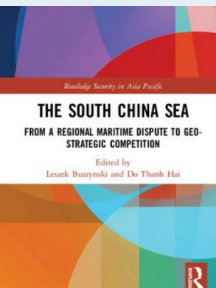
ICAS co-sponsored the conference which discussed the development of an international legally binding instrument under the Law of the Sea Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). Dr. Nong Hong introduced the role of non-Arctic states in Arctic security, shipping and environmental issues.





# PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

## BOOK CHAPTERS

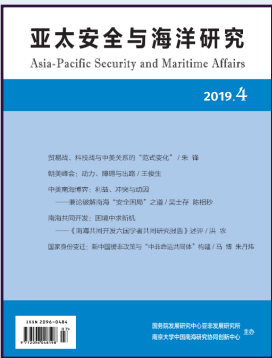


**China and the South China Sea: Continuities and Adaptations**  
By **Nong Hong**  
The South China Sea From a Regional Maritime Dispute to Geo-Strategic Competition, (Routledge Security in Asia Pacific Series, 2019)



**Freedom of Navigation: Where to Go When the Political Agenda Overshadows Legal Substance**  
By **Nong Hong**  
Cooperation and Engagement in the Asia-Pacific Region (Center for Oceans Law and Policy, 2019)

## JOURNAL ARTICLES



**Joint Development Practice in the South China Sea: Breaking through the Predicament —a Review on the “Cooperative Research Report on Joint Development in the South China Sea”**  
By **Nong Hong**  
Asia-Pacific Security and Maritime Affairs. Volume 4, 2019



**Historic Fishing Rights in Foreign Exclusive Maritime Zones**  
By **Sourabh Gupta**  
The Korean Journal of International and Comparative Law. Volume 7, Issue 2, 2019

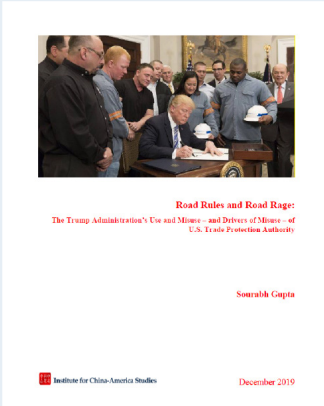


**Area-based Management Approach in the South China Sea: Current Efforts and Future Prospects**  
By **Nong Hong**  
Asia-Pacific Journal of Ocean Law and Policy. Volume 4, Issue 2, 2019

## REPORTS



**Indo-Pacific Strategy and China’s Response**  
By **Wu Shicun & Jayanath Colombage**  
October 23



**Road Rules and Road Rage: The Trump Administration’s Use and Misuse - and Drivers of Misuse- of U.S. Trade Protection Authority**  
By **Sourabh Gupta**  
December 02

## ISSUE PRIMER

**China, G20 and The Future of Multilateralism**  
By **Sourabh Gupta**  
June 26



## SELECTED COMMENTARY & ANALYSIS

**Nong Hong**  
COMMENTARY

March 12  
Arctic ambitions of China, Russia – and now the US – need not spark a Cold War, South China Morning Post

**Sourabh Gupta**  
COMMENTARY

October 17  
China-India Relations: Restoring Maritime Commons, The Hindu

**Matt Geraci & Yilun Zhang**  
ICAS ISSUE PRIMER

September 23  
The East China Sea Tracker: Tracking the Evolving Dynamics in Maritime Security and Economics in the East China Sea



# ONLINE CONNECTION

## ENHANCING OUR COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

ICAS continues to be fully committed to keeping up with technological shifts in a rapidly changing world, sharing academic research to make it more accessible, and engaging with professionals, the media, and the general public. ICAS’ homepage

had 12k+ views and ICAS’ twitter posts had 416.9k+ views/impressions in 2019. In 2020, ICAS will launch the new design of its website. Stay tuned and stay connected.

### Follow us on:

#### Twitter



**ICAS**  
@icasDC

The Institute for China-America Studies (ICAS) is a Washington think tank dedicated to analyzing important issues in US-China relations. RTs not endorsements.

Washington, DC [chinaus-icas.org](#)  
Joined September 2015

563 Following 1,187 Followers

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media Likes

**ICAS** @icasDC · Jan 17

"I don't think the US has an answer to China's infrastructure diplomacy in Myanmar...the Bay of Bengal will not become a second South China Sea any time soon." @ICASgupta quoted by @SCMPNews :



China turns to Myanmar as the 'friendly giant in the neighbourhood' When Xi Jinping arrives in the Southeast Asian nation f...  
scmp.com

5 3

**ICAS** @icasDC · Jan 17

"Facial recognition technology is becoming a very handy and efficient tool at policing transport network hubs. And these

#### LinkedIn



**ICAS**  
Institute for China-America Studies

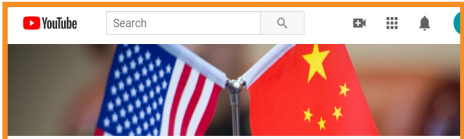
Think Tanks  
Washington, DC · 182 followers

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About us

The Institute for China-America Studies is an independent think tank funded by the Hainan Nanhai Research Foundation in China. Based in the heart of Washington D.C. ICAS is uniquely situated to facilitate the exchange of ideas and people between China and the United States. We achieve this

#### YouTube



**ICAS**  
Institute for China-America Studies

265 subscribers

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**2019 Annual Conference**  
Opening Remarks: Dr. Wu Shicun, Dr. Gordon Houlden...  
29:16 78 views · 7 months ago

**Panel 1: Risk of U.S.-China Strategic Competition**  
209 views · 7 months ago

**Luncheon Speech: Ms. Susan Thornton**  
67 views · 7 months ago

# ICAS IN THE MEDIA

## ICAS IN THE NEWS

ICAS Scholars provided insights to several news outlets around the globe, such as:

RT	Xinhua Net	CCTV News
VOA	Phoenix TV	Global Times
SCMP	BBC News	East Asia Forum
Sputnik	The Athletic	CGTN America
France 2	TRT World	China US Focus
France 3	The Hindu	The Washington Times
IPP Review	China Daily	Channel News Asia

### OP-ED ARTICLE

#### A Shift of U.S. Arctic Policy: Can the China Card Be Played Wisely? - SCMP

By Nong Hong  
September 10

“ ... China has the potential to be a strong partner for the United States if it can match up its own interests in the Arctic with the United States’ interests and, together, address questions that are important to both nations.

”





# ENGAGING & ENCOURAGING THE YOUNG

## Growing with ICAS

The Institute for China-America Studies prides itself on preparing young and emerging professionals for their future careers in international relations, security studies, economics and trade, energy and the environment, and more. The ICAS Internship Program provides its interns with numerous professional development experiences, such as authoring commentaries, blog posts, and issue primers, as well as the opportunity to participate in and meet scholars and experts at Track II dialogues hosted by ICAS. It is the hope of ICAS that its interns will gain an appreciation for the importance of promoting U.S.-China relations as they grow into their future careers.

## Our interns in 2019



**Xin Gu**



**Xue Lin**



**Wentao Hui**



**Trenton Marsolek**



**Nataly Cruz-Castillo**



## and here's what they have to say...

### Asiana Cooper

"I came to ICAS hoping to improve my knowledge in defining global trends and acquire skill sets needed for addressing some of our world's most pressing issues. I have received these and so much more. More importantly, ICAS scholars and peers have inspired me with their passion, wisdom, and encouraging nature."



### Stephen Dwyer

"When I joined ICAS, I found a research environment that took an iconoclastic approach to understanding the everchanging global political economy - instead of narrowly focusing on non-mutually exclusive issues. ICAS scholars employ a myriad of perspectives and analyses for truly understanding and analyzing a complex global society. My own scholarship improved thanks to that aspect of ICAS."



### Jessica Martin

"Unlike most internship programs, ICAS interns are actively supported in publishing their own research and analysis. The ICAS team trusts the caliber of my work to be professional while still providing the technical expertise to improve my research and writing skills."



### Mengze Li

"This internship at ICAS is providing me with a lot of opportunities to experience almost all aspects of working at a research institution. Not only have I been able to conduct the kind of research that made me want to study international affairs in the first place, I am also blessed to work with the other interns and witness the different skill sets everyone is bringing to the table."



### Prim Veerakajorn

"Interning at ICAS has been a rewarding experience. I enjoyed that I had the opportunity to work on projects that has allowed me to further develop professional skills and make a tangible impact on the organization's development."

**GWU and University of Maryland student delegation visit**





# ICAS STAFF

## ABOUT US

The ICAS team is comprised of four full-time staff members in our Washington, DC office, in addition to a number of non-resident fellows and interns who support our work. Our scholars come from a diverse set of backgrounds, with professional experience in China, the United States, Canada, Asia and Europe. Our research covers maritime security, economics and trade relations, strategic competition, global governance and other issues central to the China-U.S. bilateral relationship.



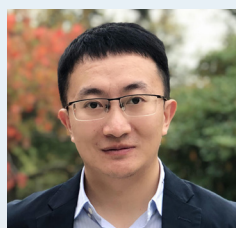
**YAN YAN**

Fellow  
(Non-Resident)



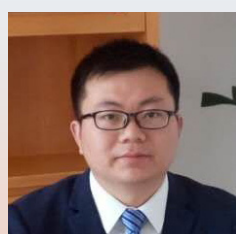
**LIU XIAOBO**

Fellow  
(Non-Resident)



**DING DUO**

Fellow  
(Non-Resident)



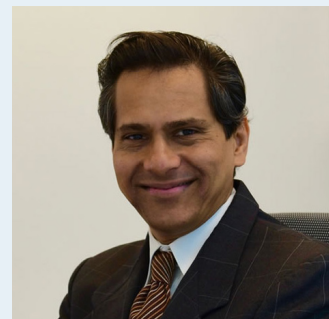
**PENG NIAN**

Fellow  
(Non-Resident)



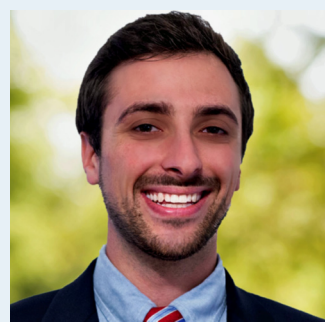
**NONG HONG**

Executive Director &  
Senior Fellow



**SOURABH GUPTA**

Resident Senior Fellow



**MATT GERACI**

Research Associate &  
Program Officer



**YILUN ZHANG**

Research & Administrative  
Assistant



**KEYUAN ZOU**

Senior Research Fellow  
(Non-Resident)



**CHRISTOPHER JOHN  
JENNER**

Senior Research Fellow  
(Non-Resident)



# ADVISORY BOARD

## ABOUT THE ADVISORY BOARD

the work of our scholars. Their advice enables ICAS to stay on top of the latest developments in the fields of maritime security, economics and trade, and strategic stability. We are grateful for their commitment and dedication toward improving the most important bilateral relationship in the world.

The ICAS advisory board provides invaluable guidance for our day-to-day operations. All esteemed scholars in their field, the work of our board members closely coincides with ICAS' research portfolio and complements



**SHICUN WU**  
President  
National Institute for  
South China Sea Studies



**FENG ZHU**  
Director  
China Center for  
Collaborative Studies of  
SCS, Nanjing University



**YAWEI LIU**  
Director  
China Program  
The Carter Center



**GORDON HOULDEN**  
Director  
China Institute  
University of Alberta



**JUSUF WANANDI**  
Senior Fellow &  
cofounder  
Centre for Strategic  
and International  
Studies



**YONGNIAN ZHENG**  
Professor & Director  
East Asian Institute  
National University of  
Singapore



**SAM BATEMAN**  
Professorial Research  
Fellow  
Australian National Centre  
for Ocean Resources and  
Security (ANCORS)  
University of Wollongong



**MYRON H  
NORDQUIST**  
Associate Director &  
Editor, Center for Oceans  
Law and Policy, University  
of Virginia School of Law



The Institute for China-America Studies is an independent think tank funded by the Hainan Freeport Research Foundation in China. Based in the heart of Washington, DC, ICAS is uniquely situated to facilitate the exchange of ideas between China and the United States. We achieve this through research and partnerships with institutions and scholars in both countries, in order to provide a window into their respective worldviews.

ICAS focuses on key issues in the China-U.S. relationship in need of greater mutual understanding. We identify promising areas for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the spheres of Asia-Pacific maritime security, economic, trade, national security, and international relations as well as global governance issues, and explore avenues for improving this critical bilateral relationship.

ICAS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



**ICAS**

Institute for China-America Studies





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1919 M St. NW Suite 310, Washington, DC 20036  
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