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Institute for China-America Studies

2018 Annual Report



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 2018.

2018 was a turbulent but critical year which might come to be seen as a turning point for the future of U.S.-China relations. The political and security relations in the Trump Administration was shaped by the U.S.' National Defence Strategy and National Security Strategy reports as well as the "Indo-Pacific" concept. Together, they seem to suggest that, at least from the U.S. perspective, the "engagement with competition" approach that was commonly shared during previous administrations has now transitioned to a "competition with possible confrontation" approach. On the economic side, China and the United States are now locked in a spiraling trade war that has seen them level increasingly severe rounds of tariffs on each other's imports. 2018 will likely go down as one of the worst years in U.S.-China trade and investment relations since the normalization of bilateral ties in the late-1970s. In maritime domain, ties have not been immune to developing tensions in the overall bilateral relationship. That said, the frictions related to the South China Sea, which have been on-going for decades, and the spat with regard to Washington's freedom of navigation operations will continue to be appropriately managed. Each of these major developments in the security, economic and maritime domain have posed a critical challenge to leaders of both countries, reminding us once again of the importance of communication and trust.

In the coming 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 issue areas 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
Executive Director & Senior Fellow
Institute for China-America Studies

From the Chair of the Advisory Board



Dear Friends,

In the four 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.

2018 was a turbulent year for the China-U.S. relationship, and ICAS was there every step of the way. No stone was left unturned in its coverage of the bilateral relationship through its conferences, workshops, reports, opinion pieces and contributions to the global media narrative.

2019 will bring numerous challenges and perhaps opportunities to China-U.S. relations from trade to maritime competition in the South China Sea. I look forward to ICAS continuing to provide global audiences with its unique perspective and building bridges that facilitate the exchange of ideas and people between China and the United States.

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

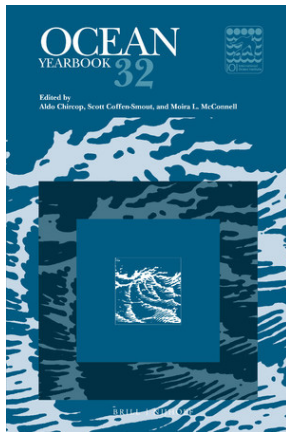
Publication Highlights

BOOK CHAPTER

Archipelagic Regime in the South China Sea: A Debate on the Rights of Continental States' Outlying Archipelagos

By Nong Hong

Ocean Yearbook (International Ocean Institute, 2018)



JOURNAL ARTICLE

The South China Sea Arbitration: A Test for the Efficacy of Compulsory Mechanism of UNCLOS and Implications for Dispute Management in the Region

By Nong Hong

Special Issue on the South China Sea Arbitral Award (Asian Policy and Politics, 2018)



EDITED BOOK

Maritime Order and Law in East Asia
(Routledge, 2018)

Gordon Houlden & Nong Hong Eds.



**MARITIME ORDER AND THE
LAW IN EAST ASIA**

Edited by
Gordon Houlden and Nong Hong



Publication Highlights

REPORTS

Previewing Issues in 2018

By Sourabh Gupta & Nong Hong
January 2018



Previewing Issues in 2018
Trump's DPRK Policy | U.S.-China Trade | The South China Sea

Sourabh Gupta

Nong Hong

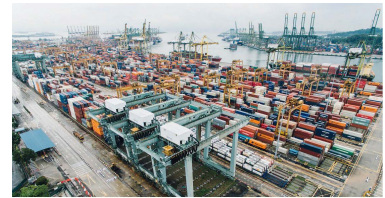
Institute for China-America Studies

February 2018

REPORTS

The Art of the China Deal: Trump's Section 301 China IPR-related Tariffs and Investment Measures

By Sourabh Gupta
June 2018



The Art of the China Deal

Trump's Section 301 China IPR-related Tariffs and Investment Measures

Sourabh Gupta

Institute for China-America Studies

June 2018

REPORTS

China's Interests in the Arctic: Opportunities & Challenges

By Nong Hong
March 2018



China's Interests in the Arctic: Opportunities and Challenges

Examining the implications of China's Arctic policy white paper

Nong Hong

Institute for China-America Studies

March 2018

2018 Annual Report

Traditional Media Presence

ICAS IN THE NEWS



OP-ED ARTICLES

Pence's Speech: Key Turning Point or a Play for the Midterms?

Nong Hong

China-US Focus, October 15, 2018

Despite Trade War, U.S. Does Not Label China Currency Manipulator

Sourabh Gupta

China-US Focus, October 19, 2018

From Trade War to Cold War

Will Saetren

South China Morning Post, September 18, 2018



2018 By the Numbers



50 WORKS OF COMMENTARY, ANALYSIS AND REPORTS



HOSTED, CO-HOSTED OR CO-SPONSORED **16** CONFERENCES AND DIALOGUES



ICAS SCHOLARS PARTICIPATED IN **30** CONFERENCES WORLDWIDE



150 PARTICIPANTS AT THE ICAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE



ICAS SCHOLARS PROVIDED INSIGHTS TO SEVERAL NEW OUTLETS GLOBALLY. INCLUDING Australian Broadcasting Corporation, CGTN America, CCTV-4, South China Morning Post, The Strait Times, TRT World, Channel News Asia, RT, VOA, People.CN, Xinhua Net, China Daily

SELECTED COMMENTARY AND ANALYSIS

Nong Hong

What a navy ship stranded on a South China Sea shoal reveals about China - Philippine relations - SCMP, September 13, 2018

Freedom of Navigation: A Lost Legal Doctrine - IPP Review, September 12, 2018

China's New Arctic Policy: Legal Questions and Practical Challenges - Maritime Awareness Project Analysis, March 16, 2018

International observers warm to China's Arctic policy - SCMP, February 14, 2018

Sourabh Gupta

Despite Trade War, U.S. Does Not Label China Currency Manipulator - China-US Focus, October 19, 2018

ASEAN and China should seize the opportunity in the South China Sea - East Asia Forum, September 11, 2018

The NDAA chill to US-China Strategic Ties - CGTN America, August 20, 2018

China must lead trade, investment multilateralism at the WTO - People's Daily, July 24, 2018

Will Saetren

Is Trump killing nuclear arms control or can he broker deals with North Korea and Russia to make the world a safer place? - SCMP, August 20, 2018

Will the US' new nuclear policies spark an arms race with China? - SCMP, March 28, 2018

No Reassurance - SCMP, January 25, 2018

2018 Annual Report

Event Highlights

March 16
Washington, DC
Report Launch: China's Interests in the Arctic - Opportunities and Challenges

ICAS launched its latest report on China's interests in the Arctic, authored by Executive Director, Dr. Nong Hong. In a panel discussion, with Sherri Goodman, Senior Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and moderated by Gordon Houlden, Director of the China Institute at the University of Alberta, Dr. Hong presented her findings and discussed the implications of China's Arctic Policy White Paper.



July 26-27
Provincetown, MA
China-U.S. Track II Dialogue on Maritime Affairs and International Law

The Institute for China-America Studies co-organized the seventh China-U.S. Track II Dialogue on Maritime Affairs and International Law in Provincetown, Massachusetts on July 26-27.



August 20-22
Wollongong and Canberra, Australia
Academic Exchange in Australia

ICAS Advisory Board Chairman Dr. Wu Shicun, and our executive director Dr. Hong visited various renowned think tanks and research institutes in Australia including the Lowy Institute, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, and Australian Strategic Policy Institute for academic exchanges.



September 19
Beijing, China
China-U.S. Young Scholars Forum on U.S-China Macro-Relations at Tsinghua University

ICAS Senior Fellow, Sourabh Gupta, participated in the China-US Young Scholars Forum on U.S-China Macro-Relations at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Mr. Gupta discussed topics related to the U.S-China trade war, the South China Sea issue and U.S. policy towards the Korean Peninsula with Chinese scholars.

Event Highlights

October 30
Washington DC

Event Series: The Impact of Sino-American Trade Conflict on Growth in China and Asia and the Outlook Ahead

ICAS held an event to discuss the impact of the trade conflict on growth trends in China, developing Asia (Asia excluding Japan), and the regional economic outlook, going forward. Senior Fellow Sourabh Gupta discussed the issue with Ms. Valerie Mercer-Blackman, a senior economist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Shanaka Jayanath Peiris, a senior economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



November 15-16
Haikou, China
6th Asia/Arctic Maritime Security Forum

ICAS has been co-organizing the annual Asia/Arctic Maritime Security Forum since 2014 with China Institute of the University of Alberta, and the National Institute for the South China Sea Studies. This year's forum featured topics including regional maritime security, developments regarding the law of the sea, the intersection of maritime operations and international legal frameworks, and maritime cooperation within and beyond national jurisdiction. Proposals on international cooperation with regard to maritime security and ocean governance in the Asia Pacific and Arctic were put forward.



December 12
Washington DC
Event Series: Where to from Buenos Aires? Outlook for U.S.-China Trade Ties following Trump-Xi Meeting

ICAS held a public event to discuss the outlook for U.S.-China trade ties following the meeting of the U.S. and Chinese presidents on the sidelines of the G20 leaders meeting in Buenos Aires, and the ensuing 90-day trade truce declared by the two sides. Dr. Mary Lovely, a non-resident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and a professor of economics at Syracuse University, was the featured presenter. Dr. Ellen Frost, a senior advisor and fellow at the East-West Center in Washington, D.C., moderated a discussion thereafter featuring Dr. Lovely and ICAS senior fellow Mr. Sourabh Gupta.



2018 Annual Conference

China-U.S. Relations in Year Two of Trump



On June 19th, 2018, the Institute for China-America Studies held its annual conference examining the state of China-U.S. relations. This year's conference, "China-U.S. Relations in Year Two of Trump," consisted of four panels focusing on the overall bilateral relationship, the ongoing nuclear negotiations on the Korean Peninsula, maritime security and the looming trade war between the world's two economic superpowers.

The panels featured distinguished experts from China and the United States. The keynote address was delivered by Li Kexin, Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister of the Chinese Embassy to the United States, and focused on China's perspectives of the bilateral relationship, particularly regarding the complex trade policy challenges. The luncheon address was given by Ambassador David Balton, who served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries in the Department of State. The address covered areas of cooperation between China and the United States on ocean issues.



Research Overview

Maritime Security

Important steps were taken towards laying the groundwork for stabilizing the disputes in the South China Sea over the last year, but more work needs to be done. Important progress was made in 2018 by China and ASEAN with regard to their on-going code of conduct discussions. Although the South China Sea issue has taken a backseat to other more immediate concerns, such as the crisis on the Korean Peninsula, the fact that the issue has declined in prominence does not mean that the South China Sea dispute is going away. In the coming year, the geopolitical competition between China and the United States will increase and will continue to set the stage for and influence the disputes in the South China Sea.



Economics and Trade

2018 will go down as one of the worst years in U.S.-China trade and investment relations since the normalization of bilateral ties in the late-1970s. In January, the Trump administration imposed Section 201 safeguards tariffs on China; in March, Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs were imposed; since July, three tranches of Section 301 investment and intellectual property rights (IPR)-related tariffs have been imposed; in August, the U.S. tightened its investment screening regulations with an eye on China. Totally, almost \$375 billion of bilateral trade was subject to tit-for-tat tariffs and an additional \$267 billion could also fall within the tariff net in the near future. As the year drew to a close and following a meeting between President Xi and President Trump at the G20 leaders meeting in Buenos Aires, there is hope that the two sides could set a floor under their trade, investment and IPR-related differences and devise a framework to manage them in 2019.



Expanding our Portfolio

In 2018, ICAS, led by research fellow Will Saetren, expanded its operations to include research on the nuclear weapon policy, a dynamic that is often overlooked in the strategic balance of power between the United States and China.

ICAS also expanded its portfolio to include Arctic studies from the perspective of China as a stakeholder. This has included creating an Arctic Tracker to complement our existing Maritime Tracker projects, publishing commentary on developments in the Arctic, and Executive Director Nong Hong attending several Arctic Conferences.

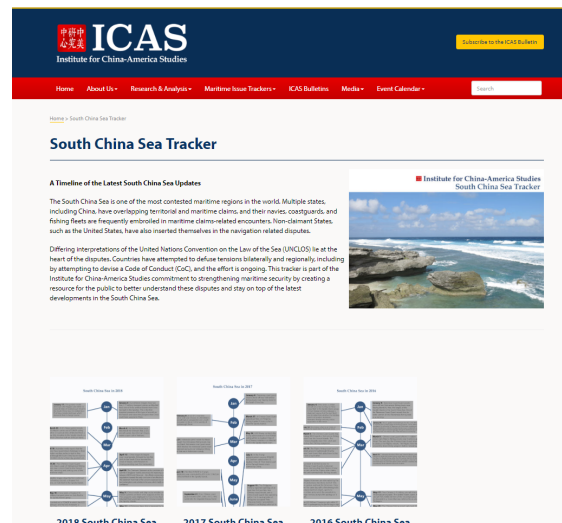


Program Highlights

ICAS Maritime Issue Trackers Finds a New Home

As part of the ongoing commitment to improving access to our research products, ICAS Maritime Issue Trackers have been updated to full HTML compatibility. South China Sea Tracker, Arctic Tracker, and East China Sea Tracker are prominently featured on our website and are now easy to read and share on social media.

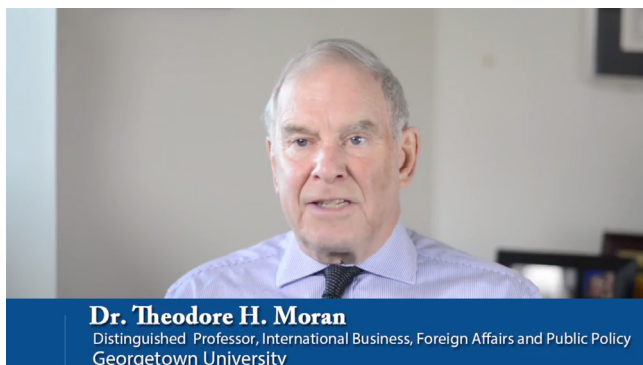
The South China Sea Tracker for 2016-2018 is now available in JPG format and is updated on a rolling base. The Arctic Tracker is available now, and the East China Sea Tracker will also be available soon.



American Voices Initiative

The American Voices Initiative (AVI) is a series of on-camera, sit-down interviews with leading American scholars on important issues in the U.S.-China bilateral relationship. The series seeks to elicit an array of opinions from American experts across a range of topics, extending from economics, trade, politics, maritime security, foreign policy to strategic stability. Our goal is to provide a global audience an in-depth specialist view from an American perspective on a topical issue of significant interest in U.S.-China relations.

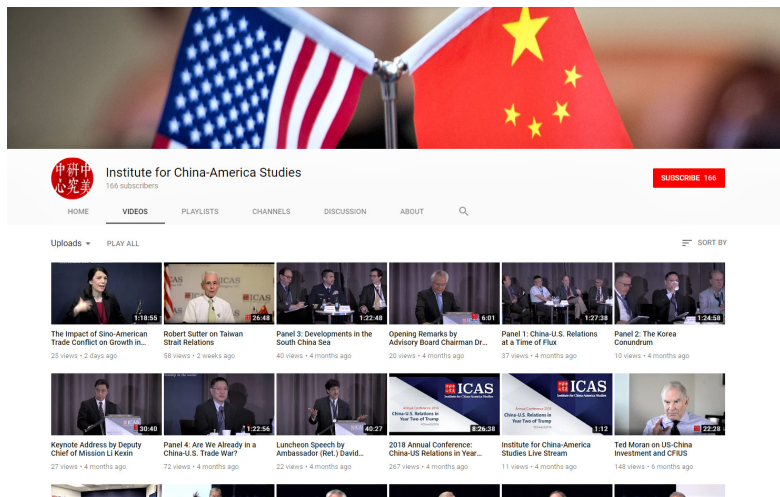
AVI scholars in 2018 were Theodore Moran (bottom left) and Robert Sutter (bottom right).



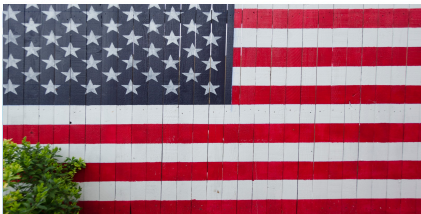
Social Media

Strengthening our Communication Strategy

Since starting our social media push in 2017, our visibility as an organization has increased, and social media has become an important outlet to promote our work and the work of other experts in the field of China-America relations. Our twitter following increased to 1,042, which allowed us to increase our impressions every quarter this year to date. This led to a total impression count of 170.9k as of December 2018. In addition to our efforts on Twitter, our LinkedIn account has been proven useful in projecting our research and programs. We have gained on average 5 new followers a month on LinkedIn. We have also made 7,017 organic impressions to date, with an average of over 700 a month. Our Youtube account has also been a major contribution to our social media footprints, with a 80% increase in views and a 56% increase in subscribers. Our top video offering this year was Economic and Trade Relations with China, with a total watch hours of 140.6k hours.



The ICAS Bulletin offers the latest news & analysis of US-China relations, DC-area events. If you haven't already, consider subscribing to our bi-monthly newsletter today! [#tradewar](#) [#uschinarelation](#)



Trade War? It's More Than That - ICAS
Trade War? It's More Than That - Commentary
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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 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 issue areas in the U.S.-China relationship in need of greater mutual understanding. We identify promising areas for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the spheres of maritime security, Asia-Pacific economics, trade, strategic stability, 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 Staff



About US

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



Dr. Nong Hong
Executive Director &
Senior Fellow



Sourabh Gupta
Resident Senior Fellow



Will Saetren
Research Associate &
Program Officer



Dr. Keyuan Zou
Non-resident Senior Fellow



Jing Li
Adjunct Fellow

Advisory Board

About the Advisory Board

The ICAS advisory board provides invaluable guidance for our day to day operations. All esteemed scholars in their fields, the work of our board members closely coincides with ICAS's research portfolio and compliments 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, the crisis on the Korean Peninsula and strategic stability. We are grateful for their commitment and dedication to improving the most important bilateral relationship in the world.



Dr. Shicun Wu
President
National Institute
for South China Sea
Studies



Prof. Gordon Houlden
Director
China Institute
University of Alberta



Dr. Feng Zhu
Director
China Center for
Collaborative Studies of
the South China Sea
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Dr. Yongnian Zheng
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Dr. Myron H Nordquist
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Jusuf Wanandi
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Centre for Strategic
and International
Studies, Indonesia



Yawei Liu
Director
China Program
The Carter Center

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Institute for China-America Studies



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