

# Annual Report 2023

New Zealand Asia Institute



**BUSINESS SCHOOL**

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# New Zealand Asia Institute

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## Enhancing New Zealand's understanding of and engagement with Asia

The New Zealand Asia Institute (NZAI) undertakes research that promotes engagement with Asia, provides a forum for informed debate and offers a bridge to Asia-related expertise and research within the University of Auckland.

NZAI was established in 1995 in response to the growing importance of Asia to New Zealand politically, economically and culturally.

Based at the University of Auckland Business School, NZAI is a faculty-level research institute that draws on the wide body of knowledge available in the University, with a number of core research projects being undertaken by faculty and PhD students.

We also work collaboratively with research institutes and researchers in Asia on research projects, programmes and conferences that enhance our understanding of Asia's transformation.

NZAI engages widely with corporate, government and other stakeholders.

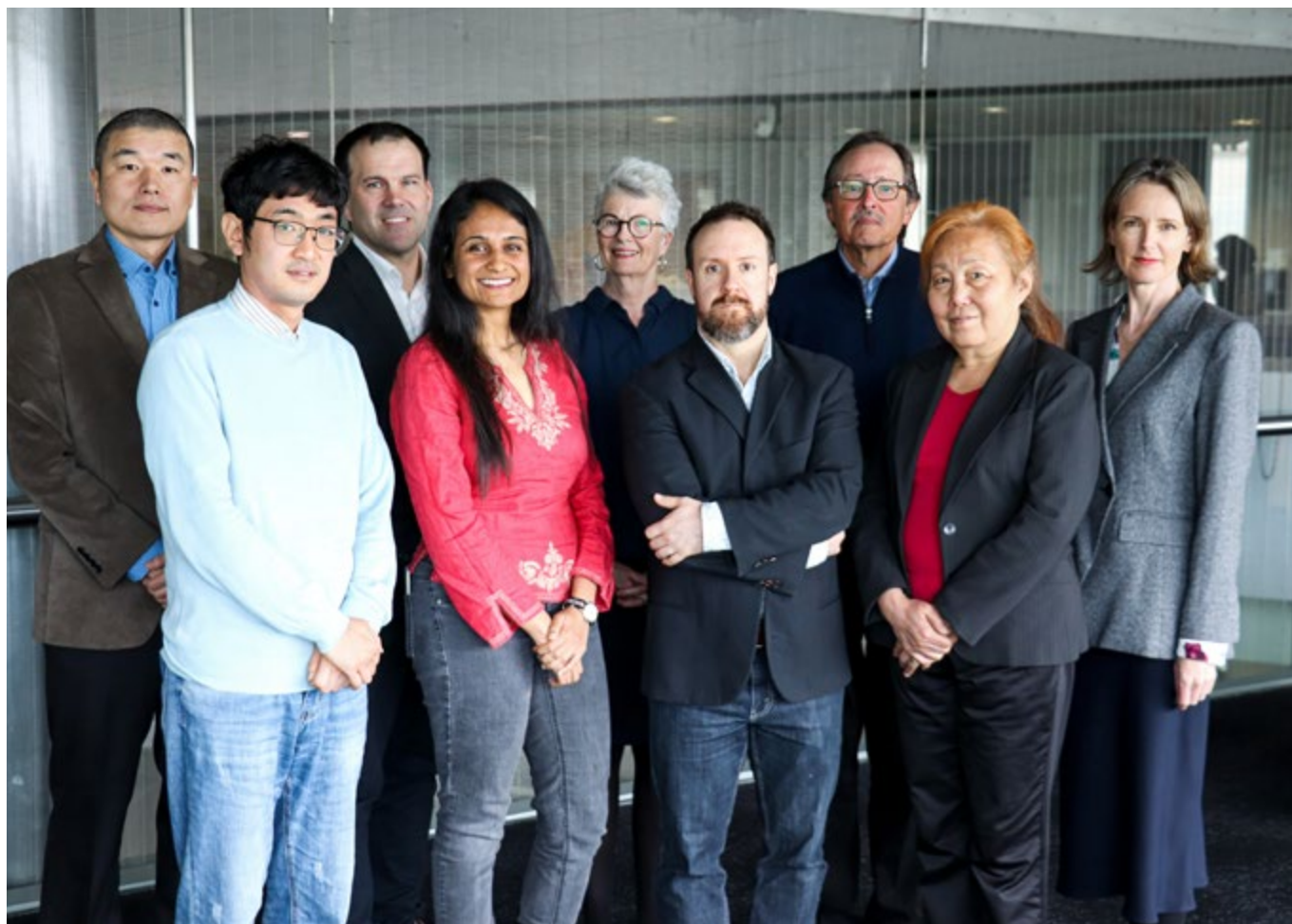


Asia Savvy LEGO Serious Play workshop participants, May 2023

# Staff and Management Committee 2023

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Charles Chow	Asia Network Adviser
Xin Chen	Research Fellow
Benjamin Fath	Director of the Southeast Asia Studies Centre
Antje Fiedler	Deputy Director
Natasha Hamilton-Hart	Director NZAI
Stephanie Honey	Trade Policy Adviser
Mark Mullins	Director of the Japan Studies Centre
Stephen Noakes	Director of the China Studies Centre
Yuri Seo	Director of the Korea Studies Centre
Dinah Towle	Office Manager



# Strategic Advisory Board 2023

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Mitchell Pham, Chairperson

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Chye Heng, Deputy Chairperson

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Celia Caughey

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Amarit Charoenphan

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Jerry He

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Ian Kennedy

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Josephine Kim

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Indradi Soemardjan

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# Director's report

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## Natasha Hamilton-Hart

As New Zealand continued to strengthen international relationships in a world marked by some significant tensions, 2023 was for the New Zealand Asia Institute a year of welcoming new partners and continuing to explore events and dynamics in the broad Asian region.

We started the year with a terrific panel discussion of Zespri International's challenges and opportunities in China, where the company faces the challenge of protecting its intellectual property. As we learned from the panel, Chinese institutions for property rights protection have undergone rapid change in recent years, making it necessary for foreign firms operating in China to keep informed about the changing legal landscape and invest in developing understanding of the Chinese business environment.

Also at the start of the year, we were delighted to formalize a partnership with the Nicholas Tarling Charitable Trust to support scholarly activities that advance understanding of Southeast Asia. The late Professor Nicholas Tarling was of course a founder of the New Zealand Asia Institute and for many decades remained active in the work of the Institute and his own field of Southeast Asian history. We are honoured to contribute to continuing his legacy by supporting scholarship that seeks to understand the region in all its richly-textured complexity. The first group of scholars to receive small grants under the partnership had their projects underway in the second half of the year, and we look forward to sharing some of their findings over 2024.

The Institute also welcomed new faces in 2023. The New Zealand APEC Study Centre officially joined the NZAI, after nearly thirty years as an independent research centre. Led by co-directors Asha Sundaram and Haiping Zhang, the APEC Study Centre remains part of a consortium of APEC study centres in APEC's member economies. We had the good fortune



to be able to add further to our expertise relating to economic integration when Stephanie Honey joined us as our first Trade Policy Advisor. Stephanie is an experienced trade policy consultant and former trade negotiator who has a particular interest in frameworks governing digital trade.

Our Strategic Advisory Board was also extended in 2023 with the addition of Amarit Charoenphan. Amarit is a Thai tech entrepreneur and angel investor who has been involved across the start-up and tech scene in Thailand and elsewhere in Southeast Asia. We are lucky that he has been drawn into working with New Zealand-based organizations and we look forward to learning more from him, especially when it comes to entrepreneurship in the region.

The Southeast Asia theme for 2023 was also reflected in our language classes, which have been supported by the Nicholas Tarling Charitable Trust. We were glad to offer classes in Indonesian again, and to re-start our Vietnamese language at the end of the year. The classes run in the evenings and serve as introductions (or refresher courses) for anyone wishing to develop their skills in two of the region's most widely-spoken languages.

Our other activities are described in the rest of this report, which provides a record of the research, publications and outreach activity we have undertaken. I would like to thank all of our staff, management committee members and sponsors. I am also grateful for the insights and advice of our Strategic Advisory Board members.

### **Professor Natasha Hamilton-Hart**

Director

New Zealand Asia Institute

# Events and activities: highlights for 2023

## Asia Savvy in 2023

**The Asia Savvy network held two major events in 2023. In May, we led the Asia Savvy LEGO Serious Play Workshop on building cross-cultural intelligence. Antje Fielder, an accredited LEGO Serious Play Facilitator, led the workshop with the assistance of Josephine Greenwood, the Asia Savvy Student Lead. Thanks to Unleash Space for their support.**

The idea for LEGO Serious Play was developed in Switzerland by two academics in conjunction with the LEGO CEO in the 1990s. It is a style of learning, applicable over a variety of themes, designed to improve your creative thinking and communication skills.



Student creation at the LEGO Serious Play workshop

Thanks to everyone who attended the workshop where we used our LEGO to represent our interpretations of what it takes to be open to other cultures; followed by what barriers look like to having these competencies. Each group created wonderful LEGO representations of using the competencies to overcome the barriers.



Participants at the LEGO Serious Play workshop

In August, we introduced a new initiative, the Asia Savvy Student Challenge, a student case competition. In this initiative,

the case explored Zespri's sustainability goals in Japan. We were excited to work with two executives from Zespri International and delighted to enjoy sponsorship of the event by the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

Moderated by Antje Fiedler together with Asia Savvy student lead, Josephine Greenwood, the event began with presentations by two representatives from Zespri International, Monica Mireles Serrano and Rieko Shida, who beamed in from Japan. The theme for 2023 was lifting sustainability in Asia and we had an amazing opportunity hear both the Zespri executives set the scene by sharing Zespri's sustainability journey. They presented the students with the challenge they face. Zespri aims to realize 100% sustainable consumer packing by 2025 using only recyclable, reusable, or compostable packaging. While the organisation already reached 97% of this target in Europe, Japan is still a laggard regarding sustainable packaging. Japanese consumers often prioritise convenience and hygienic packaging over conscious alternatives. Zespri wants to drive change in the Japanese market.



Students presenting at the Asia Savvy Challenge

Students were tasked to explore why Japanese consumers have a unique view of plastic compared to other markets and how Zespri can promote more sustainable packaging in Japan. The students presented various innovative ideas, demonstrating a great passion for sustainable solutions, as well as very good cultural understanding and empathy for the Japanese consumers.

After the student's presentation, Rieko and Monica shared the current initiatives of Zespri to lift sustainability in the Japanese market, such as building a stewardship program to promote sustainable packaging, developing new packaging products, and improving transparency. We heartily thank our speakers and sponsors, as well as the students themselves for participating in the event.

## APEC Study Centre

### Asha Sundaram and Haiping Zhang

The Centre hosted the third annual workshop titled “Geo-economics Fragmentation and Supply Chain Restructuring” on December 1, 2023 at the University of Auckland Business School. The workshop featured keynote and panel sessions by distinguished thought leaders, including Professor Shang-Jin Wei (N.T. Wang Professor of Chinese Business and Economy, Columbia University), Professor Alan Bollard (chair of NZ Infrastructure Commission, former RBNZ governor and former Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat), Professor Jessie Poon (State University of New York, Co-chair of the United States APEC Study Centres Consortium), Deborah Elms (Head of Trade Policy, Hinrich Foundation, Singapore) and Professor Yong Wang (Deputy Dean, Institute of New Structural Economics, Peking University). The workshop drew over 60 registered participants from the business community, government agencies and international organizations, major think tanks, and other key stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region. The Centre has received highly positive feedback on the workshop as an event that enhanced the international influence of the Centre and the New Zealand Asia Institute, contributing to the Business School’s external engagement. The workshop addressed issues relating to trade wars and soft power, national security, trade and industrial policy, and current challenges for green transitions, addressing the sustainability and innovation themes of the University’s Taumata Teitei.

Asha Sundaram represented New Zealand at the Annual APEC Study Center Consortium held at the University of California, Berkeley in November 2023. She presented her work on services trade liberalization in Vietnam. She was able to share her thoughts with colleagues from other APEC countries on liberalization in the Asia-Pacific and on New Zealand’s role in the region. She received feedback on her work from academics, policy practitioners and government departments from other APEC countries attending the workshop.

Haiping Zhang, Robert Scollay and Asha Sundaram were invited to give lectures at the Public Policy Institute’s Short Courses for international MFAT Manaaki Trade Policy Scholars. The lectures covered a wide range of topics, including Trade Policy and Reform, Services Trade and Supply Chains, WTO Trade Agreements, Regional Trade Agreements, Inclusive Trade and Labor, Digital Economy and Trade, Industrial Policy and Trade Tensions, the Chinese Economy and the implications for the APEC region. These lectures generated active discussion among participating policy scholars on economic integration and its drivers and impacts in the APEC region and beyond.

Through the year, the Centre’s co-directors enjoyed working

with other members: Rob Scollay (honorary academic, Economics), Dulani Jayasurya (Accounting & Finance) and Benjamin Liu (Commercial Law), along with economics PhD students Hannie Huang, Xiuxiu Lin and Linlu Bai.

## China Studies Centre

### Stephen Noakes

In 2023, the China Studies Centre concentrated on four main areas: research production, hosting international visiting scholars, public outreach, and student engagement.

2023 saw the publication of high-quality interdisciplinary outputs by CSC research associates, most notably Asia-Pacific Small States: Political Economies of Resilience (Lynne Rienner Publishers), edited by CSC Director Stephen Noakes and the University of Canterbury’s Professor Alex. C. Tan. Featuring contributions from scholars and policy professionals across the Asia-Pacific, including Taiwan, Australia, Korea, Singapore, and New Zealand, the book is the product of an online symposium held by the CSC in late 2021.

With the resumption of international travel, the CSC was privileged to host an array of esteemed international visitors. Among the highlights was the mid-May visit of eminent Harvard Professor Alistair Ian Johnston, who shared some of his new research on China’s new approaches to international order. In September, the CSC also welcomed its first postdoctoral fellow, Dr Xiang Hui, funded by the China Scholarship Council. A delegation from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) visited the CSC for a roundtable session in December.



In keeping with our foundational belief in research-informed public discourse, CSC staff engaged in abroad program of media engagement, appearing in a wide assortment of national and international outlets, both broadcast and print. The primary focus of these appearances was on New Zealand-China commercial and diplomatic ties, as well as China’s engagement with the wider Pacific region. Media appearances were complimented in 2023 by a range of Track 1.5 dialogues and



meetings with diplomatic officials from Japan, the Republic of Korea, UK, US, France, and many other countries.

Finally, the CSC continued with its long-standing tradition of including students in the centre's activities, in order to build and train the upcoming generation of China experts. As is the case every year, Track 2 dialogues hosted with our partners at the Asia New Zealand Foundation proved a popular and effective means to encourage young New Zealanders to develop their China knowledge and diplomatic skills.

## Japan Studies Centre

### Mark Mullins

Although the Centre Director was on research and study leave for semester 2, support from NZAI staff and colleagues allowed for some of the usual activities and events to continue.

Visiting Scholars: The Centre has hosted visiting scholars for one or two semesters, which has expanded our international network and academic exchange. Dr Ria Shibata, a Research Fellow of the Toda Peace Institute in Tokyo, has been affiliated with us for the year and is working on her book project "Competing Victimhood and Intergenerational Responsibility: Resolving the Rift between Japan and South Korea."

During semester 2, Professor Junzo Kato, Ritsumeikan University, and Associate Professor Naoka Maemura, Kobe University of Foreign Studies, joined the Centre to work on their joint research project on Japanese immigrants in New Zealand. Reports in Japanese have already been prepared and the Centre plans to publish an Occasional Paper in English in 2024, to share the results of their study more widely. The preliminary Japanese report is available online.

Public Seminar: On Friday 29 September, the NZAI and the Japan Studies Centre co-hosted with the Consulate General of Japan in Auckland a seminar by Lieutenant General (Ret.) ISOBE Koichi on "Global Security Challenge and Japan's Defence Policy." This presentation addressed how Japan is seeking to strengthen its security cooperation with like-minded countries, including New Zealand, in response to the ongoing crises generated by climate-change, pandemics, and Russia's recent aggression in Ukraine. The event was moderated by Dr Stephen Noakes, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations. It was well-attended by more than 50 participants and followed by discussions and friendly conversations over refreshments.

Research Seminars on Japan and the Asia-Pacific Region: The research seminars co-hosted by the Centre and the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, University of Tokyo, were continued in 2023 and held once each semester. First launched in person prior to the covid pandemic, these are now held as webinars online. Each seminar last two hours and PhD candidates from both institutions are given the opportunity

to present papers on their research in progress. This past year seminar presentations included Noriko Katayama's "How violence in medical practice is addressed in Japan," (PhD candidate, University of Tokyo) and Yanjie Li's "Koizumi Ikuko (1892-1964): the Making of a Japanese Christian Feminist" (PhD candidate, University of Auckland). Each seminar has usually been attended by some twenty PhD students and teaching staff, with a good balance of participants from both institutions, and moderated by Associate Professor Akira Nishimura (University of Tokyo) and Centre Director, Professor Mark Mullins.



## Korea Studies Centre

### Yuri Seo

In 2023, the Korea Studies Centre achieved significant advancements in research, collaboration, and outreach. A particular highlight was the recognition of research by Yuri Seo on consumer perceptions of cultural appropriation within the K-pop industry, which achieved the high distinction of being published in the *Journal of Consumer Research*, a leading journal in the marketing discipline.

Internationally, our collaboration was highlighted by co-hosting two joint symposia in Seoul, in partnership with esteemed institutions such as Yonsei University, Korea University, the University of Queensland, and Universitas Gadjah Mada. These events facilitated a dynamic exchange of ideas and emphasized Korea Studies Centre's crucial role in nurturing academic partnerships.

We also expanded our impact beyond academia by engaging with external stakeholders in New Zealand.

Working alongside the North Asia Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence (NA-CAPE), we delivered workshops aimed at enhancing the presence of New Zealand brands in Korea. Additionally, in partnership with the Oyster Group, we led seminars focused on building trust in B2B relationships within the Korean market for Māori and Pasifika SMEs, illustrating

Korea Studies Centre's commitment to applying academic research to real-world business challenges.

Finally, we continued to promote Korea-related knowledge within the University of Auckland, organizing seminars, lectures, and networking events for staff and students with an interest in Korea. In summary, Korea Studie Centre's endeavours in 2023 underscored our commitment to advancing research, fostering international collaborations, and linking academic knowledge with practical applications, thus significantly enriching the understanding and appreciation of Korea's cultural and business landscape.



Excellence (CAPE), and the peer-reviewed report is currently undergoing final edits.

Second, we conducted a systematic literature review on the mechanism and effects of digital transformation in Southeast Asia, focusing on its impact on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and business model innovations in cities. Digitalisation is a global trend, but it has reached Southeast Asia early in its economic development. There is strong growth in digital-first and mobile-only strategies, and many Southeast Asian countries are now home to digital unicorns (startups with a valuation of over 1 billion). The pace of development of these technologies and the consumer markets they enable must be seen in the context of how business has traditionally been done in the region. The study identified important enablers and constraints to digitalization stemming from culture, education, and government policies. The preliminary report on this study has been completed and we aim to see it published as a journal article. We would like to acknowledge financial support from the Nicholas Tarling Charitable Trust for conducting this activity.

Finally, we have contributed to business workshops run by the Southeast Asia CAPE. Workshops were offered in Nelson, Auckland, Hamilton, and Wellington. The purpose of the workshops was to introduce NZ businesses to the region and to nurture a deeper understanding of how to succeed. The workshops had about 40 attendees, including New Zealand SMEs and policymakers. Feedback has been unanimously positive.

## **Southeast Asia Studies Centre**

### **Benjamin Fath**

The Southeast Asia Studies Centre engaged in three main research and engagement activities over 2023. First, we developed a research project looking at how to compete in Southeast Asian cities. Cities are at the heart of economic development, benefiting from agglomeration economics, yet they also bear many of the costs of compressed economic development, such as pollution and inequality. Cities are home to the affluent consumer base that is the main consumer of important luxury products. However, understanding how to compete in modern cities is still in its infancy since international markets are often defined by countries, rather than cities. Understanding the different evolutionary patterns as well as similarities in the drivers of success is important for New Zealand's engagement with the region. This work was financially supported by the Southeast Asia Centre for Asia-Pacific

# Appendices

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## Seminars and Events

- ‘Zespri in China: IP Challenges and Opportunities.’ NZAI panel discussion featuring Heidi Jade (Zespri International), Hongzhi Gao (Victoria University of Wellington), Rod Oram (business journalist) and Lisa Callagher (University of Auckland Business School). 20 February.
- ‘Soft power of Russia, China, and the EU: Perceptions by students in the top universities in Kazakhstan.’ China Studies Centre seminar by John Irgengioro of Ghent University. 5 April.
- ‘Japan and the Asia-Pacific Region.’ Online research seminars co-hosted by the Japan Studies Centre and the Department of Religious Studies, the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, University of Tokyo. Presentations by PhD students. 28 April.
- ‘Asia Savvy LEGO Serious Play Workshop: Building cross-cultural intelligence.’ Facilitated by Antje Fiedler, 8 May.
- NZAI Asia Security Briefing for US Military officers, hosted by Stephen Noakes, 12 May.
- ‘Beefing up: China’s rise in the Indo-Pacific.’ NextGen Roundtables: Track II Simulation, China Studies Centre in cooperation with the Asia New Zealand Foundation. 12 May and 13 October.
- ‘Asia Savvy Student Challenge: The invisible Zespri in China: IP challenges and opportunities’ Facilitated by Antje Fiedler and Natasha Hamilton-Hart, featuring Zespri executives Rieko Shida and Monica Mireles Serrano. 30 August.
- ‘K-pop.’ Seminar by Rina Chae for Creative Arts and Industries students.
- ‘Global security challenge and Japan’s defence policy.’ Public talk by Lieutenant General (Ret.) Isobe Koichi. Co-hosted by the Japan Studies Centre and the Consulate General of Japan. 29 September.
- ‘Geopolitics of water in China-India relations.’ China Studies Centre seminar by Antonina Luszczkiewicz, visiting scholar from the Jagiellonian University. 11 October.
- ‘Korea Cultural Aspects of Trust in Triadic b2b relationships’, Korea Studies Centre workshop, Yuri Seo and Suh-Young Irene Park, October.
- ‘Understanding and Navigating Business Relationships in Korea’ Korea Studies Centre workshop in collaboration with the North Asia CAPE and Oyster Group, October.
- ‘Goeconomic fragmentation and supply chain restructuring, New Zealand APEC Studies Centre Annual Workshop. 1 December.

## Southeast Asian language classes

Level 1 Indonesian Language class, 16 February to 4 April.

Level 2 Indonesian Language class, 2 May to 22 June.

Level 3 Indonesian Language class, 27 July to 14 September.

Level 1 Vietnamese Language class, 12 October to 30 November.

## NZAI Publications

### Research Snapshots (e-series):

- No. 46. “Religion and ‘psychological contracts’ in Asian business-to-business relationships”
- No. 47. “How SME’s upgrade in emerging market clusters: Taiwan’s world-champion bicycle industry”
- No. 48. “Managing sustainability tensions in China-New Zealand business partnerships”
- No. 49. “Chinese multinationals’ internationalisation strategies: new realities, new pathways”
- No. 50. “Small state Realpolitik: Why New Zealand has reined in criticising human rights abuses in China and Turkey”

### Asia Echo:

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December (e-series)

## Briefing note:

'Samsung's Reconstruction of its Global Production Networks: From China to Vietnam, from Vietnam to Diversification.' Hannie Huang, November.

## Publications by NZAI staff and management committee members

- **Chen** Xin, Haiping Zhang, Xingang Wang, Grace Low 'China's e-CNY Journey: Design and Development', report.
- Audretsch, D. B., & **Fiedler**, A. 'Power and entrepreneurship.' *Small Business Economics*, 60(4), 1573-1592.
- Audretsch, D., & **Fiedler**, A. 'Sustainability in Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Going Global.' In *International Business and SDG 8: Exploring the Relationship between IB and Society* (pp. 223-238). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.
- **Fiedler**, A., **Fath**, B., Sinkovics, N., & Sinkovics, R. R. 'On-ramp or speed bump? How boards influence the internationalisation of international new ventures.' *International Small Business Journal*, 41(6), 590-622.
- Audretsch, D. B., & **Fiedler**, A. 'Does the entrepreneurial state crowd out entrepreneurship?' *Small Business Economics*, 60(2), 573-589.
- Casey, C., **Fiedler**, A., & Delaney, H. 'Global Framework Agreements (GFAs) in Practice: Effects and challenges in German companies' Asia-Pacific entities.' *De Gruyter*.
- **Hamilton-Hart**, N. 'The Ambiguous Architecture of Economic Integration in East Asia.' *Asia Policy* 18(4): 31-40.
- Siedlok, F., N. **Hamilton-Hart** and H.S. Chen, 'Taiwan: State and Private-Sector Cooperation.' In *Asia-Pacific Small States and Covid-19: Political Economies of Resilience*, eds. Stephen Noakes and Alex C. Tan (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers).
- **Hamilton-Hart**, N. 2023. 'Roundtable on Rick Doner, Gregory Noble, and John Ravenhill, The Political Economy of Automotive Industrialization in East Asia.' *Journal of East Asian Studies* 23(1): 158-161.
- **Noakes**, S.L., Armoudian, M. 'The Realpolitik of Small States: Explaining New Zealand's silence on human rights violations in Turkey (Türkiye) and China. *Political Science*, 75(2): 85-104.
- Stephen **Noakes** and Alex C. Tan, Eds. *Asia-Pacific Small States and Covid-19: Political Economies of Resilience* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers).
- Stephen **Noakes**, 'Political Economy.' In *Encyclopedia of Asian Politics*, eds Alex C. Tan and Dennis F. Quilala, 122-125 (Cheltenham, Edward Elgar).
- Stephen **Noakes**, Miriam Matejova and Anastasia Shesterinina, eds., 'Studying Global Politics in Adverse Conditions: The Uncertainty Spectrum' In *Uncertainty in Global Politics*, 233-251 (London and New York: Taylor & Francis).
- Stephen **Noakes** and Chris Wilson. *Democratisation: A New Introduction* (London: Bloomsbury).
- Cruz, A., **Seo**, Y., Scaraboto, D. 'Between cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation: self-authorizing the consumption of cultural difference.' *Journal of Consumer Research*, 50(1): 962-984.
- Li W., Zhao, F., Lee J., Park, J., Septianto, F., **Seo**, Y. 'How micro- (vs. mega-) influencers generate word of mouth in the digital economy age: The moderating role of mindset.' *Journal of Business Research*, 171, 114387.
- Zhang, H. 'Trade induced sectoral upgrading and upstream financial flows.' *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 56(3): 859-896.

## Conference presentations, talks and seminars by NZAI staff

### Xin Chen

- 'Digital Transformation and Inclusive Growth: Smart and Sustainable Cities in a Post-Covid World' conference paper for the forum, "Global Digital Economy: Building Smart City in a Changing World." Peking University, July.

### Natasha Hamilton-Hart

- Speaker, Aspen Institute Summer Series on "Geo-Political Challenges: forum on the Indo-Pacific." 2 February.
- Panelist and moderator, Auckland Trade and Economic Policy School, Auckland, 24 February.
- Speaker, 'Geopolitical challenges to Southeast Asian development strategies' at the Southeast Asia Geopolitical Update, Australian National University, 1 May.
- Speaker, NZIIA Conference, "International Solutions: Aotearoa New Zealand's Place in a Troubled World", panel on enabling international commerce, Auckland, 8 June.
- Public talk, 'Southeast Asia between China and the United States', China Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, 29 June.

- Briefing on New Zealand-China economic relations, MBIE, Wellington, 30 June.
- Panelist, Australian National University GRADNAS Seminar, State Formation through Emulation by Chin-Hao Huang and David C. Kang, 16 June (online).
- 'China business ecosystem', China Capable Public Service series, Wellington 29 September.
- Panelist, 'Strategic competition and regional economic cooperation', Track II ASEAN-NZ-Australia Dialogue, Malaysia, 3-5 October (with the Asia New Zealand Foundation).
- 'Southeast Asia: Economic Growth and Development', seminar for U3A, 19 October.
- 'Indonesia's Foreign Policy for 2045: Context, Orientation, Instruments, and Strategies', Panel Session II on Diplomacy and Indonesia's Leadership in the Golden Era, Indonesian Foreign Ministry Conference of Indonesianists, 19 October.
- 'NZ Business in China: challenges and resources.' China Capable Public Service series, MFAT senior leaders, Wellington, 20 October.
- Panelist, "Business as usual or new opportunities?" at the Auckland Trade and Economic Policy School "Leading Trade Agreements for Sustainable Futures", 21 November.
- Panelist, 'Goeconomic dynamics and supply chain in the APEC region', presented at APEC Study Centre Annual Workshop on Goeconomic Fragmentation and Supply Chain Restructuring, 1 December.
- Resource person, Asia New Zealand Foundation Track 2 workshop, Auckland, 5 December.

### **Ben Fath**

- 'North Asia's digital economy.' Business development workshop (with the North Asia Centre for Asia Pacific Excellence), 31 October.

### **Antje Fiedler**

- Technology Investment Network Workshop, 2 August.
- 'Welcome to the digital economies of China, Japan and South Korea.' Business development workshop (with the North Asia Centre for Asia Pacific Excellence), 14 September.
- 'North Asia's digital economy.' Business development workshop (with the North Asia Centre for Asia Pacific Excellence), 31 October.

### **Stephen Noakes**

- 'Digital Transformation and Inclusive Growth: Smart and Sustainable Cities in a Post-Covid World', Panel on 'Building Smart Cities in a Changing World' at the "Thematic Forum of Global Digital Economy Conference", Peking University, July.
- Briefing on China and Security for the Republic of Korea, Wellington, 8 August.

### **Yuri Seo**

- 'Luxurification in Asia.' Workshop for Māori and Pasifika businesses (with CAPE and Oyster Group), June.
- 'The Role of Cultural Appropriation in Consumer Behaviour.' Nanjing University, China, October.

### **Asha Sundaram**

- 'FDI, Geography and Welfare,' invited seminars at Stanford University, Syracuse University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Cape Town, University of Oregon, University of California (Santa Cruz and Irvine), International Monetary Fund (IMF), 2nd GEN Workshop, New York.
- 'Services Trade Liberalization and Manufacturing Firm Productivity: Evidence from Vietnam', invited talks at Midwest International Economics Group Trade Meeting, Georgia Institute of Technology, Peterson Institute of Development Economics.
- 'Roads and the Informal Sector', invited talk at Policy Studies Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### **Haiping Zhang**

- 'Digital Economy and Trade', invited lecture, MFAT Trade Course hosted by the Public Policy Institute, the University of Auckland, March and April.
- 'Trade and Industrial Policy', invited lecture, MFAT Trade Course hosted by the Public Policy Institute, the University of Auckland, October.
- 'Outlook of China's Economy and Trade', invited lecture, MFAT Trade Course hosted by the Public Policy Institute, the University of Auckland, Dec 2023.

## Media

### Xin Chen

- 'Moving onward side by side', China Daily, 7 February.
- 'China's e-currency explorations and the future of trade', National Business Review, 3 June.
- 'China's plan for a digital currency will have global implications, ABC News, 8 October.

### Natasha Hamilton-Hart

- 'Geopolitical challenges to Southeast Asian development strategies', East Asia Forum, 5 June.
- 'Interest in Asia needs to be backed up with study of languages, culture, experts say', Radio New Zealand News, 22 June.
- 'NZ businesses confront the end of 'win-win' at Chinese Business Summit', Business Desk, 18 July.
- 'Southeast Asia: Between the US and China', Asia Media Centre, 25 October.

### Stephen Noakes

- 'China calls for tighter trade ties with New Zealand', South China Morning Post, 25 March.
- 'Von China abhängig, weil abgelegen?', ARD German Radio & Television, 5 August.
- 'What does China's economic downturn mean for Xi Jinping', Ticker News, 4 September.
- 'Mistress? Corruption? How the world is losing Chinese Ministers', Pravda, 30 September.
- 'Why are China's ministers disappearing', The Global Agora blog, 4 October.

### Yuri Seo

- 'K-Pop fans love the music, but worry about cultural appropriation - new study', Stuff, 23 July.

## Awards

Mark Mullins received an award from the New Zealand Asian Studies Society First Prize for his book, *Yasukuni Fundamentalism: Japanese Religions and the Politics of Restoration* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2021) at the 2023 Book Awards, 2023.

The book was also selected for the Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion: Analytical-Descriptive Studies by the American Academy of Religion.

## Visitors

- Dr Ria Shibata, National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago (Japan Studies Centre).
- Dr Junzo Kato, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan (Japan Studies Centre).
- Dr Naoka Maemura, Koby City University of Foreign Studies (Japan Studies Centre).
- Assoc. Professor Antonina Luszchekiewicz, Jagiellonian University of Krakov, Poland (China Studies Centre).
- Xiang Hui, Xian University of Technology, Shannxi, China, PhD visitor (China Studies Centre).



## Thank you

**NZAI would like to acknowledge the generous support we have received in 2023 from the following organizations:**

- Asia New Zealand Foundation
- Korea Foundation
- Matthew S. Abel Charitable Trust
- Nicholas Tarling Charitable Trust

*The Fukuoka Garden  
Auckland, New Zealand*



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