

The University of Hong Kong



Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

## Growing Chinese Military Activity in the South China Sea and Regional Responses

As China seeks to gain hard power equal to its growing "soft power," it is becoming increasingly assertive in the South China Sea (SCS). Beijing appears increasingly willing to use its military to protect and advance its national interests in this region, and, as such, it has expanded the local capabilities of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). This military building is, correspondingly, causing many other nations in the SCS to respond with their own military modernization efforts. The concern is that the SCS could become a new zone of conflict.

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**Richard A. Bitzinger** is a Senior Fellow with the Military Transformations Program at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, where he focuses on Asia-Pacific regional security and defense issues, including military modernization and force transformation, regional defense industries and local armaments production, and weapons proliferation. His articles have appeared in such journals as *International Security*, the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Orbis*, *China Quarterly*, and *Survival*. He is the author of *Towards a Brave New Arms Industry?* (Oxford University Press, 2003), "Come the Revolution: Transforming the Asia-Pacific's Militaries," *Naval War College Review* (Fall 2005), *Transforming the U.S. Military: Implications for the Asia-Pacific* (ASPI, December 2006), and "Military Modernization in the Asia-Pacific: Assessing New Capabilities," *Asia's Rising Power* (NBR, 2010). He previously worked for RAND Corporation, the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Affairs, and the U.S. Government.

**Date: April 19, 2012 (Thur)**

**Time: 4:30 pm**

**Venue: 631 Meng Wah Complex**

*(Tea & coffee will be served at 4:15 pm)*

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