

The University of Hong Kong

香 港 大 學



Department of Politics and Public Administration

Presents

# Japan's Grand Strategy in an Era of Change

The recent publication of a US-style *National Security Strategy* document by Japan, combined with the negative publicity generated by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to the controversial Yasukuni Shrine, has drawn attention to marked changes in Japanese security posture. After decades of economic stagnation and suffering the calamity of the Great East Japan Earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster at Fukushima in 2011, Tokyo has begun to seriously reappraise its national priorities. Nowhere is this more evident than in the realm of national security, where Japan is under unremitting pressure from China and North Korea, and has yet to achieve a workable *modus vivendi* with its South Korean and Russian neighbours. This presentation considers the future of Japan's grand strategy, and puts particular emphasis on Tokyo's attempts to build new 'strategic partnerships' with Australia, India, and other regional allies, as a counterweight to the challenges above. It seeks to offer insights into "what's really going on" behind the media furore in order to arrive at a balanced appraisal of current Japanese security thinking.



**Dr Thomas Wilkins**

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Dr Thomas S. Wilkins is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. He is currently a Guest Researcher at the Department of Public Policy and Administration, HKU. For the Year 2012-13 he was Japan Foundation "Japan Studies" Fellow at the Department of Politics at Tokyo University. He received his BA, MA and Ph.D from the University of Birmingham, UK, and completed two years of Post-Doctoral Studies at the University of San Francisco and the East West Center (Honolulu). He currently specializes in Asia Pacific security affairs with a particular emphasis on alliances and other security alignments (with a manuscript under review with Lynne Rienner Press). He has also published widely in academic journals such as *Review of International Studies and International Relations of the Asia Pacific*, and has been active in Track 1.5/2 dialogues on security issues, around the region.

**Date: 28 January 2014 (Tuesday)**

**Time: 4:30 pm**

**Venue: Room 813, The Jockey Club Tower  
Centennial Campus, HKU**

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