

# CANADA, US AND CHINA: MARITIME SECURITY ISSUES

THE ARCTIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA  
- SHARPENED COMPETITION OR COLLABORATION?

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2011  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

**Workshop Coordinator:**

Nong Hong, Postdoctoral Fellow  
China Institute, University of Alberta  
Email: hongnong1026@gmail.com,  
nong@ualberta.ca  
Phone: 1-780-492-1263  
Fax: 1-780-492-8200

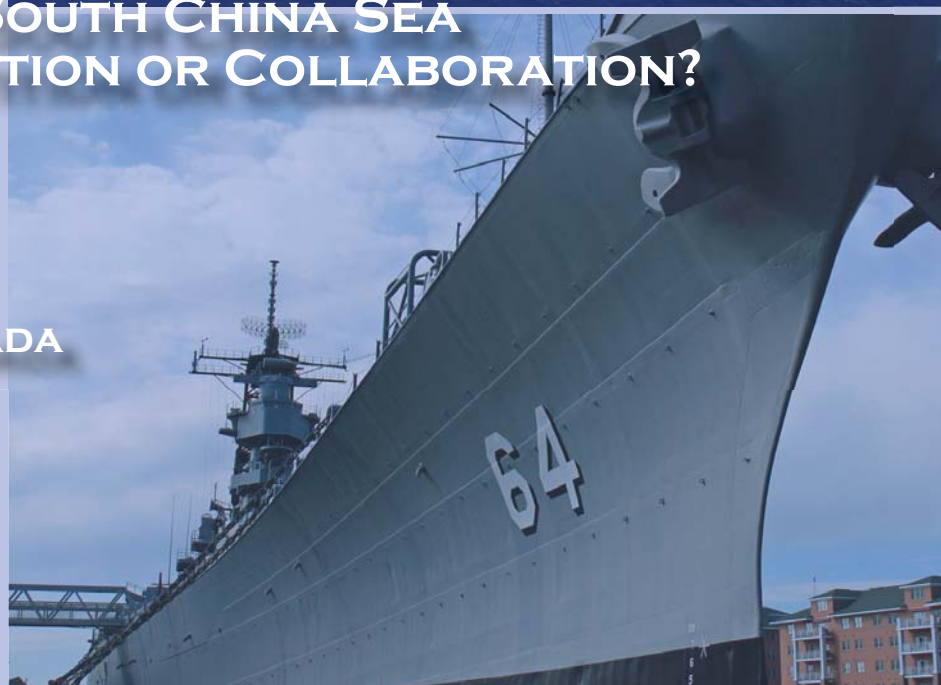
**Workshop Administration:**

Jia Wang, Administrative Officer  
China Institute, University of Alberta  
Email: jia.wang@ualberta.ca  
Phone: 1-780-492-3131  
Fax: 1-780-492-8200

Visit [www.china.ualberta.ca](http://www.china.ualberta.ca) for more information.



UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA





# CANADA, US AND CHINA: MARITIME SECURITY ISSUES THE ARCTIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

## BACKGROUND

### **Background:**

Both the Arctic and the South China Sea (SCS) has for decades received attention of the international community for various factors, geopolitics, strategic and security considerations, resource competition as well as multiple sovereignty and maritime claims. The prospect of the disappearance of Arctic sea ice and recent developments in the South China Sea in 2010 raise the risk of new rounds of competition, and inject uncertain elements to the security of both regions.

The shrinking Arctic sea ice raises serious sovereignty and security issues between the circumpolar states – Canada, US, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Russia, Finland, Sweden, along with non-Arctic actors, such as European Union, China, Japan and South Korea. The interrelations among the Arctic States involve sovereignty disputes, jurisdiction claims, resource competition and military capacity expansion, while new non-Arctic interests in Arctic draw in elements of international shipping, seabed resources exploitation, environmental concern and scientific research. Non-Arctic actors' Arctic policies play no less important roles in articulating a governance framework for Arctic region, compared with that of traditional Arctic states. Like its East Asia neighbours, China sees the melting Arctic Ocean a unique opportunity for itself and international trade generally. The Arctic states, including Canada and US, are wary of China's position on Arctic and are questioning China's increased interest in those waters.

The SCS dispute is regarded as the most complex and challenging ocean-related regional conflict in East Asia. 2010 witnessed the escalation of the controversy in the SCS, with US's increasing presence in this region, and with a series of US-Sino spats on the SCS dispute. In March 2010, Chinese officials told two visiting senior Obama administration officials that China would not tolerate any interference in the South China Sea, now part of China's "core interest" of sovereignty. In July, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a statement at the 10th ASEAN regional forum (ARF) that the disputes over the highly sensitive South China Sea were a "leading diplomatic priority" and now "pivotal to regional security". These comments contributed to increasing concerns in Beijing who sees the US Secretary of States's statement as a signal that US will alert its "neutral position" on the SCS dispute. China and the United States point at each other, accusing the other party for changing their position on the South China Sea issues. 2011 has seen further escalation of the rhetoric, particularly in the period prior to July 2011 ASEAN Regional Forum.

Given that developments, the workshop is timely, and will address the nexus of trilateral relations in maritime security in these two regions. In the South China Sea, China is a major claimant state, while the US asserts its own national interest in the South China Sea. In the Arctic, US and Canada differ in their interpretation of the legal status of the Northwest Passage. China's shown interest in the Arctic also raises some concern in Canada about which positions China will eventually pursue in the Arctic.

### **Objective:**

This day and a half workshop will bring scholars and government officials from Canada, the US and China and other regional states to discuss three dimensions of maritime security in both the Arctic and the South China Sea, namely geopolitics and security, international shipping, prospects and challenges for cooperation.

# CANADA, US AND CHINA: MARITIME SECURITY ISSUES THE ARCTIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA



## WORKSHOP AGENDA

Draft as of Sep 12

**Date:** September 21 - 23 2011  
**Location:** Lister Conference Centre  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Canada

### Wednesday, September 21

Aurora Room, Lister Conference Centre

6:00 PM **WELCOMING RECEPTION**

-

7:30 PM

### Thursday, September 22

Wildrose Room, Lister Conference Centre

8:30 AM **REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

9:00 AM **WELCOMING REMARKS**

Mr. Brian Heidecker, Chairman, Board of Governors, University of Alberta

9:15 AM **PANEL 1**

*Geopolitics of the Arctic and the South China Sea: Recent Developments*

**Moderator** Professor Gordon Houlden, China Institute, University of Alberta

**Panelists** Dr. Ian Townsend-Gault, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia

*"Geopolitics of the Arctic and the South China Sea: Recent Developments"*

Dr. David Curtis Wright, Centre for Military and Strategic Studies, University of Calgary

*"The Logic of China's Claims to 'Rights and Interests' in the Arctic"*

Dr. Nong Hong, China Institute, University of Alberta

*"Rethinking the Coastal States and User States' Interests in the Arctic and the South China Sea: Bridging the Perception Gap"*

11:00 AM **COFFEE BREAK**

# CANADA, US AND CHINA: MARITIME SECURITY ISSUES THE ARCTIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

- 11:15 AM**     **PANEL 2**  
*Legal Challenges of the Arctic and the South China Sea*
- Moderator**     **Dr. Ian Townsend-Gault**, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia
- Panelists**     **Dr. Ted McDorman**, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria  
*“International Legal Challenges Respecting the Arctic: A Canadian Perspective”*
- Dr. Jon Van Dyke**, William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai`i  
*“Regional Cooperation in the South China Sea and the Arctic”*
- Dr. Kuen-chen Fu**, KoGuan Law School, Shanghai Jiaotong University  
*“The Chinese U-shaped Line and Its Historic Waters in the SCS”*
- 1:00 PM**     **LUNCHEON**
- Speaker**     **Mr. William MacKay**, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs Advisor, Government of Nunavut
- 2:30 PM**     **PANEL 3**  
*Issues Related to International Shipping in the Arctic and the South China Sea*
- Moderator**     **Dr. Ted McDorman**, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria
- Panelists**     **Professor Kenneth MacInnis**, Marine and Environmental Law (MELAW) Institute, Dalhousie University  
*“Polluter-Pays Principle –Ship-Source Pollution in Arctic Waters”*
- Dr. Donald R. Rothwell**, College of Law, Australian National University  
*“Freedom of Navigation in Uncertain Times: Implications for the South China Sea and Arctic Ocean”*
- Dr. Wenran Jiang**, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta  
*Title (TBC)*
- 4:00 PM**     **COFFEE BREAK**

# CANADA, US AND CHINA: MARITIME SECURITY ISSUES THE ARCTIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA



## WORKSHOP AGENDA

4:15 PM

### PANEL 4

*Voices of Stakeholders in the Arctic and the South China Sea*

**Moderator** Dr. Anita Dey Nuttall, Canadian Circumpolar Institute,  
University of Alberta

**Panelists** **Commander Jonathan G. Odom**, Judge Advocate General's  
Corps, U.S. Navy

*"Where's the Stake? U.S. Interests in the South China Sea  
and the Arctic"*

**Admiral Yi Yang**, Institute for Strategic Studies, National  
Defense University, PLA. China

*"The Evolution Of China's Maritime Strategy and Its Impli-  
cations"*

**Dr. Greg Anderson**, Alberta Institute for American Studies,  
University of Alberta

*Title (TBC)*

6:00 PM

### HOST DINNER

-

Aurora Room, Lister Conference Centre

8:00 PM

## Friday, September 23

Wildrose Room, Lister Conference Centre

8:30 AM

### CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 AM

### PANEL 5

*Prospect for Cooperation and Challenges*

**Moderator** Dr. Andy Knight, Department of Political Science, University of  
Alberta

**Panelists** **Dr. Guifang Xue**, Institute for the Law of the Sea, China Ocean  
University

*"Deep Danger: Intensified Competition in the South China  
Sea"*

**Dr. Tran Truong Thuy**, Center for East Sea (South China Sea)  
Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

*Title (TBC)*

**Mr. Edwin S. Estrada**, Foreign Service Institute, Department of  
Foreign Affairs, Philippines

*"Cooperation in the South China Sea: Prospects and Chal-  
lenges"*

10:30 AM

### CONCLUDING REMARKS