

Irene Chan

Personal Information

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Executive Summary

- Research specialist in regional politics, economy and security issues with extensive fieldwork experience in Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia and Central Asia.
- Well-versed in policy and academic research. Published and cited writer in local newspapers, international journals and edited book volumes.
- Speaker with robust experience presenting in ASEAN intersessional Track II working groups, local and international conferences.
- Experienced commentator on regional affairs with Channel News Asia and regional media.
- Experienced in handling for foreign diplomats and briefing officials from Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence.

Areas of Expertise

Event & project management | Communications | Research | Writing & editing | Publishing | Consultancy

Professional Experience

- Senior Manager June 2021 – Present
Group Leader, FutureChina Group, Business China

Responsibilities

- Research on Singapore-China relations, Singapore-China economic relations, Singapore foreign policy, Chinese foreign economic policy
- Plan and organize Business China's flagship annual events – FutureChina Global Forum (FCGF) and Business China Awards (BCA), high-level roundtables with Singaporean and Chinese political office holders, business seminars, and master classes.
- Plan and manage engagement programmes for businesses and PMETs with Singapore's key government platforms and projects in China such as the China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park, Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, China-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City, etc.
- Co-organize events with prominent business associations in Singapore such as the Singapore Business Federation, Singapore International Chamber of Commerce, etc.
- Manage corporate membership and sponsorship for FCGF and BCA.

- Associate Research Fellow August 2015 – June 2021
- Senior Analyst July 2011 - July 2015

China Programme, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University

Responsibilities

- Research on Singapore-China relations, China's Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI) in Southeast Asia, regional security and Chinese foreign policy.
- Host international roundtables discussions, workshops, and conferences.
- Conduct annual networking trips to influential think-tanks in China.
- Produce policy papers and academic papers for international journals and book publishers
- Represent RSIS in international academic conferences and ASEAN Track II working groups.
- Conduct fieldwork in regional countries and produce extensive fieldwork reports.
- Conduct briefings for foreign embassies and visiting delegations.
- Manage editorial work for internal conference reports, policy briefs and book volumes.

Significant Highlights

- Identified as policy expert on regional affairs by regional institutions and foreign embassies in Singapore. Frequently invited on regional study tours and international conferences.
- Interviewed on China's Silk Road Economic Belt in Channel News Asia's "The New Silk Road" Series, telecasted on 7 October 2015.

Publications

Op-Eds

- *China's rise and role in the Asia-Pacific*, Straits Times and Lianhe Zaobao (Mandarin translation), co-authored with Li Mingjiang, 1 June 2017
- *Lessons from Asean for Xi's Belt and Road Initiative*, TODAY, 24 May 2017
- *China's Maritime Silk Road: Emerging Domestic Debate*, RSIS Commentaries CO15053, 13 March 2015
- *China's Maritime Silk Road: The Politics of Routes*, RSIS Commentaries CO15051, 12 March 2015; TODAY (reprint), 25 March 2015
- *Beijing priming itself as a norm-maker*, Straits Times, co-authored with Wu Shang-su, 6 December 2013.
- *China and Typhoon Haiyan: Is Beijing Ready to be a Global Stakeholder?*, RSIS Commentaries No. 212, 22 November 2013.
- *Legal Reform in China: Quelling Tibetan Unrest?*, RSIS Commentaries No. 45, 16 March 2012.

Book Chapters/Journal Articles/Policy Briefs

- "Political Apathy, Soft Authoritarianism, and Singapore's Perspectives on the South China Sea", *Populism, Nationalism, and the South China Sea Disputes*, Nian Peng and Chow-Bing Ngeow (Eds), Singapore: Springer Nature (Forthcoming, Summer 2022)
- "Singapore's Forward Engagement with China's Belt and Road Initiative: Coping with Asymmetry, Consolidating Authority", *Asian Perspective*, Volume 45 No. 4 (Fall 2021)
- "Reversing China's Belt-and-Road Initiative – Singapore's Response to the BRI and Its Quest for Relevance", *East Asia – An International Quarterly*, Volume 36 No.3 (September 2019)
- "China's Counterterrorism Law and Xinjiang", *Non-Western Responses to Terrorism*, Michael Boyle (Ed.), Manchester University Press (UK: Manchester University Press, 2020).
- "China's One Belt, One Road Initiative: Regional Responses", *RSIS Monograph No. 33 ASEAN and the Indian Ocean: The Key Maritime Links*, 2017
- "Southeast Asian Responses to China's 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative", *China's Maritime Silk Road and Asia* edited by Vijay Sakhujia and Jane Chan (New Delhi: National Maritime Foundation, 2016)
- "Political Will and Joint Development in the South China Sea", co-authored paper with Dr Li Mingjiang for edited volume *Recent Developments in the South China Sea Disputes: The Prospect of a Joint Development Regime*, Wu Shicun and Hong Nong (Eds), (London: Routledge, 2014)
- "China's Pessoptimist Views on and Pragmatic Involvement in East Asian Regionalism", co-authored paper with Dr Li Mingjiang for edited volume by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Hiroshima Peace Institute, December 2011.
- *New Chinese Leadership, New Policy in the South China Sea Dispute?*, co-authored paper with Dr Li Mingjiang for *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, Volume 20 Number 1, March 2015
- *China's Perspective on Regional Security Cooperation*, RSIS Policy Brief March 2014
- *The Growth of China's Power and the Changing Security Dynamics in Asia*, RSIS-MacArthur Foundation Policy Brief, December 2013

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- Teacher
Singapore Ministry of Education

July 2004-January 2009

Education & Professional Qualifications

- Master of Science (Asian Studies) – S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU, Singapore, July 2009-July 2011
- Bachelor of Arts (History) *with* Diploma in Education – National Institute of Education, NTU, Singapore, July 2000-July 2004

Misc. Information

Technical Skills: Microsoft Office Suite

Languages (spoken and written): English, Mandarin

Availability: 1 month's notice