

## CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW Seminar

**24 February 2016, Wednesday, 4.00PM – 5.30PM**  
Seminar Room 4-1, Block B, Level 4, NUS Bukit Timah Campus  
469 Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259756

# Taiwan's position on the South China Sea: Daylight between Taiwan and China?

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



**Dr Lynn KUOK**

Fellow, Brookings Institution's  
Center for East Asia Policy  
Studies

Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre  
for International Law

Dr Lynn Kuok is a Fellow at Brookings Institution's Center for East Asia Policy Studies and a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Centre for International Law. She will spend the next year between the Harvard Law School (Cambridge, MA) and Brookings Institution (Washington, DC).

Her research interests include race and religious relations and nationalism in Southeast Asia and the politics and security of the Asia-Pacific region.

She has served as editor-in-chief of the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* and the *Singapore Law Review* and holds a PhD (Politics) from the University of Cambridge, a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and an LLB from the National University of Singapore. She is the author of *Tides of Change: Taiwan's Evolving Position in the South China Sea* (May 2015) and *Overcoming the Impasse in the South China Sea: Jointly Defining EEZ Claims* (December 2014). She is currently working on a report on U.S. freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea.

### INTRODUCTION

Taiwan's claims in the South China Sea are often regarded as virtually indistinguishable from China's. On paper, Taiwan and China appear to be making substantially the same claims and the controversial dashed line may be found on ROC and PRC maps alike. Neither government has officially clarified the line's meaning or assigned its coordinates.

Dr Kuok argues that for about a year, Taiwan took small but significant steps toward clarifying its claims. It also adopted a more conciliatory approach, exemplified by President Ma Ying-jeou's official launch of a South China Sea Peace Initiative in May 2015. These developments were significant and could have had a stabilizing effect in the South China Sea.

However, recent developments might call into question Taiwan's commitment towards distancing itself from China. These include a statement, in October 2015, stating that the ROC will neither be recognizing nor accepting the tribunal's award in the *Philippines v China* case, and visits by President Ma and others to Taiping Island.

Dr Kuok will examine Taiwan's evolving position on the South China Sea and implications for Taiwan and other actors in the region.

Admission is free-of-charge but registration is required. To register online, please click [here](#)

#### ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW (CIL)

The Centre for International Law (CIL) is based at the Bukit Timah campus of the National University of Singapore. CIL's mission is to enable Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region to play a more significant role in the promotion and development of international law and policy. The Centre's aim is to become the region's intellectual hub and thought leader for research on and teaching of international law and policy. The Director of CIL is Associate Professor Robert C Beckman. For more information, please visit the CIL website at [www.cil.nus.edu.sg](http://www.cil.nus.edu.sg) or email: [cil.info@nus.edu.sg](mailto:cil.info@nus.edu.sg). Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, Bukit Timah Campus, Block B, # 02-01, 469 Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259756