

School Research Seminar

To foster greater research sharing, learning and collaboration
among faculty and researchers

Date : 13 April 2017 (Thursday)

Time : 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (Lunch provided)

Venue : Manasseh Meyer Seminar Room 2-1

Chair : Professor Khong Yuen Foong, LKY School



Trade & Currency Conflict: Northeast Asian States Responses to U.S. Pressures



June Park

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About the speaker: Dr. Park is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre on Asia and Globalisation at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (2015-17). She specializes in U.S. foreign economic policymaking on export-oriented countries of Northeast Asia – China, Japan and South Korea. At LKY, she is working on her book project, while also expanding her research scope to trans-regional relations among the U.S., Northeast Asia and the Middle East – specifically on China, Japan and South Korea's varied geoeconomic relations with the Gulf states for energy security and military cooperation. Dr. Park graduated with a Ph.D in Political Science (2015) from Boston University as a Fulbright Fellow, and earned her B.A. (2005) and M.A. (2007) in Political Science from Korea University in her native South Korea.

Abstract: China, Japan, and South Korea are the biggest exporters of East Asia. Together, their exports account for 22.6 percent of total U.S. trade. Time and again, the U.S. has imposed punitive tariffs or imposed pressures to elevate local currency values on countries that it runs trade deficits with. While East Asian countries have been prime targets for 'bashing' by U.S. policymakers at the height of export growths, their policy responses have not been uniform. The book project unravels the reasons for different East Asian responses to US protectionist pressures that are not clearly understood. It builds a theoretical framework of institutional variance to analyze East Asian responses with regard to U.S.-initiated trade remedy measures, WTO disputes, and currency appreciation pressures. The book project complements the IR scholarship on East Asia heavily rooted in geopolitical analysis, and argues through a comparative, microscopic analysis of each bilateral relationship that institutional variance among the three states in trade and monetary policymaking has led to different responses to economic conflicts with the U.S.: Japan's acquiescence, South Korea's reciprocation, and China's escalation. This book project is based on years of on-site research combining archival research, policy discussions and in-depth interviews with government officials, policy analysts, academics, trade lawyers, and business persons in Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing, and Washington, DC from 2010 to 2017.

Please email muhdfarid@nus.edu.sg to register for this seminar. Please note that we will cater lunch boxes only for those who have registered before **6 Apr 2017 (Thu) noon**.