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prosperous Indo-Pacific

TRILATERAL MARITIME SECURITY DIALOGUE 2025

AUSTRALIA, INDIA AND INDONESIA

24 JUNE 2025

CANBERRA

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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Dr Samuel Bashfield is a Research Fellow & Director, Security & Geopolitics at the University of Melbourne's Australia India Institute, he studies and interprets geopolitical and defence trends across the Indo-Pacific, with a particular focus on India, the Indian Ocean Region, maritime security, and seabed issues.

Sam was conferred his PhD in national security policy from the ANU National Security College in 2025, where he is currently an Expert Associate and previously attained a master's degree.

He was a Non-Resident Fellow with the Royal Australian Navy's Sea Power Centre and has completed fellowships with the Australian War College, the Observer Research Foundation (India) as well as the Pathfinder Foundation (Sri Lanka). He was a Raisina Young Fellow in 2024. Sam has previously worked at the ANU National Security College, University of Sydney, and at the Australian Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. He also consults government and industry clients on a range of defence and national security issues.



The Hon. Peter Khalil MP is the Assistant Minister for Defence and the Federal Member for Wills. Peter was first elected to the House of Representatives for Wills, Victoria in 2016. Previously, Peter was the Special Envoy for Social Cohesion from July 2024 to May 2025, Chair of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security from September 2022 to October 2024, and has held numerous committee positions.

Peter is a second generation Australian. His parents migrated from Egypt to Melbourne for a better life. He grew up in public housing and played AFL and tennis semi-professionally after leaving school. Peter went on to study a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law at the University of Melbourne and a Master of Laws at Australian National University,

Prior to entering Parliament Peter was the Executive Director of Corporate Affairs, Strategy and Communications at SBS and a Victorian Multicultural Commissioner. He also has served as a foreign policy and national security adviser to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. He has also worked as a public servant at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Department of Defence.

Peter is married with 2 children and supports the Collingwood Football Club.

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His Excellency Mr. Gopal Baglay assumed charge as the High Commissioner of India to Australia in January 2024.

He was the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka from May 2020 to December 2023. He earlier served in New Delhi in the office of the Prime Minister of India, as the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs and in various other positions related to India's ties with her neighbours, Europe and multilateral organisations.

Diplomatic assignments of Mr Gopal Baglay abroad have been in Ukraine, Russia, the United Kingdom, Nepal and Pakistan (as Deputy High Commissioner).

Mr. Baglay learnt Ukrainian in his first assignment abroad and speaks Russian and a few languages of the Indian subcontinent. He holds a Master's degree in Chemistry from the University of Lucknow.

Mr. Baglay's interests involve yoga, long distance run, hiking, mind training, and ways of harmonious and sustainable living. He likes to study religions and learn about cultures.



The Hon. Tim Watts MP is the federal Member for Gellibrand in Melbourne's west and the Special Envoy for Indian Ocean Affairs. He was the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Albanese Government's first term. As Special Envoy for Indian Ocean Affairs, Tim's focus is working with our regional partners to maintain the peace, stability and prosperity of the Indian Ocean, to increase our economic, diplomatic and development ties, and to enhance our regional resilience to our security challenges, climate change and natural disasters.

Across a range of Parliamentary roles over more than a decade, Tim has led initiatives in foreign affairs, communications, cybersecurity, international education, sports diplomacy and Asia capability.

Prior to entering Parliament he worked as a Senior Manager at Telstra, a lawyer at the corporate law firm, Mallesons Stephen Jaques, a senior advisor to former Victorian Premier John Brumby and as Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Stephen Conroy.

Tim is also the author of two books, "The Golden Country: Australia's Changing Identity" and "Two Futures: Australia at a Critical Moment" (along with co-author and fellow MP, Clare O'Neil). Tim holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from Bond University, a Master of Public Policy from Monash University and a Master of Science (Politics and Communications) from the London School of Economics.

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The Hon. Lisa Singh is a former Australian Senator and was the first woman of South Asian heritage to be elected to the Australian Parliament. She is also a former Tasmanian Member of Parliament and Minister in the Tasmanian Government. She is currently the CEO of the Australia India Institute at the University of Melbourne, a leading research and policy think tank advancing Australia-India relations at the government, business, diaspora and academic levels. She has previously served as Deputy Chair on the Australian Government's Australia-India Council and currently sits on the advisory board of Asialink at University of Melbourne. She is also a Board director of Beyond Blue, Australia's well known mental health organisation.

In 2014 she was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman by the President of India for building friendly Australia-India relations, the highest civilian honour for a person of Indian origin. Representing Australia as an influential professional, Lisa has been advancing Australia's social and economic ties with the Indo-Pacific region for over a decade. And she is the recipient of the University of Tasmania's 2024 International Alumni Award. In 2016, representing Australia, Lisa was seconded to the United Nations General Assembly as an Australian government delegate.

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Dr Anthony Bergin is senior fellow at Strategic Analysis Australia. For over a decade he served in senior executive roles at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, including Research Director and Deputy Director. Prior to joining ASPI in 2006, Dr Bergin was engaged for over 20 years as an academic in professional military education teaching on foreign policy, maritime affairs and homeland security, first at the Royal Australian Naval College then at the University of NSW at the Australian Defence Force Academy. For twelve years he led the Australian Defence Studies Centre at ADFA. Dr Bergin has a doctorate on the law of the sea (ANU).



Dr David Brewster is one of Australia's leading experts on the Australia's security relationships in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. He is a Senior Research Fellow with the National Security College and a Distinguished Research Fellow with the Australia India Institute. Dr Brewster's books include *India as an Asia Pacific power*, about India's strategic role in the Asia Pacific and *India's Ocean: the story of India's bid for regional leadership* which examines India's strategic ambitions in the Indian Ocean. His edited volumes include *India and China at Sea: Competition for Naval Dominance in the Indian Ocean* and *Cross Currents: the New Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean*.



Ms Edna Caroline is an experienced journalist and defense policy researcher with a strong background in strategic studies. She holds a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and a Bachelor's in Engineering Physics from Institut Teknologi Bandung. Edna co-founded the Indonesia Strategic and Defence Studies (ISDS), a platform for public engagement and analysis on national defense and security. Since 2001, she has worked as a defense and security journalist at **Kompas Daily**, reporting on military affairs, defense policy, and regional security dynamics. Her career combines journalism, research, and public communication to enhance understanding of Indonesia's strategic challenges.

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Vice Admiral Anil K Chawla (Retd) retired in November 2021 as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Indian Navy's (IN) Southern Command. In his four-decade long distinguished career, he commanded five warships, including an aircraft carrier and the IN's Western Fleet. He also headed the IN's Foreign Cooperation, Planning & Procurement, Operations and Human Resources Departments. He completed his MA (Defence Studies) from King's College, London University and PhD from Bombay University. He was responsible for drafting the IN's Maritime Strategy and has authored several other key capstone documents for the Indian Armed Forces. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Rashtriya Raksha University, India, and on the board of several thinktanks in India and abroad. He is also a Consultant on Maritime Security with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).



Dr Shubhamitra Das is an Associate Professor at the School of Indo-Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. She has published and presented papers on Australia's Defence and security Policy, Southeast Asia, middle power cooperation, Pacific islands governance and developmental issues, China's Comprehensive Security Partnerships with Pacific Islands and its consequences, Forum for India and Pacific Island Countries, India's Indo-Pacific strategy. I worked with Non-Governmental Organizations, both Indian and international as a consultant on issues of gender and local governance, health and diplomacy, Child Rights, Panchayati Raj Institutions implementation into the tribal regions and tribal rights in India, thus bringing the essence of field research into academic research to further an interdisciplinary approach in research.



Dr Prakash Gopal is a Lecturer at the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong since October 2023. He is a former Indian navy officer with over two decades of experience in maritime security operations, policy and strategy. He served as a communications and electronics warfare specialist onboard numerous ships, and commanded an anti-submarine corvette. In 2018, Prakash took up a PhD position at ANCORS. His research examined the concept of littoral security and developed a framework for the security of critical infrastructure in littoral areas. Prakash completed his PhD in April 2023. In addition to Lecturing at ANCORS, Prakash is also an Academic Fellow of the Australia-India Institute, University of Melbourne and Non-Resident Fellow at the United States Studies Centre, Sydney.

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Mr Kim Heriot-Darragh is a strategic and defence analyst. He joins All following a 14-year career in government. While posted to the Australian High Commission in New Delhi (2019-23), he became the first Australian civilian to graduate India's year-long National Defence College course. He previously served with the Australian government in Washington DC, and deployed as a civilian on military operations in Timor-Leste and Afghanistan. A former Indonesian linguist, he holds a Master of International Law.



Ms Jennifer Parker is an Expert Associate at the National Security College (NSC) and an Adjunct Fellow in Naval Studies at UNSW Canberra. She also serves as the Nancy Bentley Associate Fellow in Indo-Pacific Maritime Affairs at the Council on Geostrategy. With over 20 years of service in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Jennifer specialised as a Principal Warfare Officer, completing advanced training in Anti-Submarine Warfare. Her extensive operational experience spans from the Middle East to the Caribbean, with a range of naval appointments both nationally and internationally. These roles have included force design strategy, career management, and international exercise planning and operations.



Ms Karen Radford has spent 20 years in the Department of Defence in roles including communications, analysis, policy, governance, change management, and international policy. Karen joined the department as a graduate in 2003 and spent nearly a decade working on counter-terrorism and support to Australian Defence Force operations as an analyst, and for the latter part of that time, in policy and governance roles focused on cyber and information security. Karen has bachelor's degrees in international relations and management, and a postgraduate qualification in public administration.

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Mr Ristian Atriandi SUPRIYANTO (Andi/Ristian) is a lecturer with the Department of International Relations and researcher at the ASEAN Study Center, FISIP, Universitas Indonesia (UI). He is also a research fellow with the Indonesia Sinology Forum (FSI), Jakarta, and PhD scholar at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University. Ristian obtained a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University (RSIS-NTU) in Singapore and a Bachelor of Social Science in International Relations from UI. Before joining UI, he worked for the Maritime Security Programme at RSIS-NTU. Submitted in March 2025, Ristian's doctoral thesis is titled "Competing over America in the Cold War: Australia-Indonesia Relations, 1945-1978."



Dr Emirza Syailendra is a Research Fellow at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, the Australia National University. He is also an Associate Research Fellow at the Indonesia Programme of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. His research covers the International Relations of Southeast Asia, particularly on the South China Sea, strategic approach, and Southeast Asian countries' relations with China. He is an Indonesia expert and has written on civil-military relations in Indonesia, the strategic culture of the Indonesian military, and democracy and current affairs in Indonesia. He obtained his Master Degree in Strategic Studies from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU in 2014. Emirza was studying fulltime under the Research Analyst Award from RSIS, while working as a programme associate for two years (2012-2014).

CONTACT

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