



Prof.em. Dr. Carlyle A. Thayer

“South China Sea: Realpolitik Trumps International Law”

- Open for Attendance without prior Registration -

Tuesday, November 7, 6:00 pm

Seminar room OAW (2I-01-05), Hof 2, AAKH Campus



This presentation addresses developments in the South China Sea in the period after the July 2016 Award by the Arbitral Tribunal that heard the case brought by the Philippines against China. It addresses six main topics: (1) the geo-strategic importance of the South China Sea, (2) the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), (3) the Award by the Arbitral Tribunal, (4) China's continued assertiveness and militarization of its artificial islands, (5) consultations between China and the ten member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea, and (6) U.S. Freedom of Navigation Operational Patrols under the Trump Administration.

The presentation concludes by assessing the status of UNCLOS as the "Constitution of the World's Oceans", unresolved issues for a COC in the South China Sea, and the impact of great power rivalry on maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

Carlyle Thayer is Emeritus Professor of Politics, The University of New South Wales (UNSW) at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) Canberra. He has published widely on the South China Sea dispute, security relations in Southeast Asia and the relations of ASEAN (and in particular Vietnam) with China and the United States.