

OPEN SEMINAR AT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, UCPH

# War or peace in East Asia?

Centre for Military Studies and ThinkChina.dk Working Group on Politics are proud to present **Jonathan Holslag**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Free University Brussels and **Stein Tønnesson**, Research Professor, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) who will discuss the prospect of peace in East Asia.

**When:** 16 December, 13.30-15.30

**Where:** NIAS-Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen, Øster Farimagsgade 5, Building 18.1, (Entrance E), NIAS meeting room

## PROGRAMME

13.30	<b>Welcome</b> Bertel Heurlin, Department of Political Science, UCPH
13.45	<b>War by other means: Interpreting China's economic statecraft</b> Jonathan Holslag, Professor, Department of Political Science, Free University Brussels
14.15	<b>Can the East Asian peace survive?</b> Stein Tønnesson, Research Professor, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
14.45	<b>Panel discussion</b> Moderator: Bertel Heurlin
15.30	<b>Christmas Reception with Glögg</b>
16.30	<b>End of programme</b>

NB: Abstracts and short bios on page 2.

## Organisers

[Centre for Military Studies, University of Copenhagen](#)

[ThinkChina.dk Working Group on Politics](#)

## Abstract and short bios of the speakers

### **Abstract: *War by other means: Interpreting China's economic statecraft***

China's strategy towards its region has been evident: to advance its core national interests without having to resort to military force. Those core interests included the maintenance of the control of the Communist Party and the so-called reunification of the motherland. The latter implies China regaining control over Taiwan, the China Seas and disputed parts of its continental border. That Asia has remained remarkably peaceful has nothing to do with the supposed growing flexibility on China's side, but with its effectiveness to use economic statecraft to increase its influence. China is effectively mollifying resistance and turning its neighbours into economic dependencies, so that it might become even impossible for them to resist China militarily in the long run. Asia's political outlook is thus not so much characterized by peace and justice, but by war by other means. And China is winning it.

### **Short bio: Jonathan Holslag**

Jonathan Holslag is Professor in International Politics at the Free University Brussels. His work focuses on political economy regional security in Asia. His latest books include: 'China's Coming War with Asia' (Polity, 2015), 'Trapped Giant' (IISS and Routledge, 2011) and 'China and India: Prospects for Peace' (Columbia University Press, 2010).

### **Abstract: *Can the East Asian peace survive?***

Since the 1980s, the East Asian region, which comprises almost one third of mankind, has enjoyed an unprecedented period of peace and growing prosperity. Stein Tønnesson will explain how peace came to this preciously war ravaged region, and discuss if it is viable. He sees the regional peace as fragile, being undermined by tensions in the Korean peninsula, Taiwan Strait and in the East China and South China Sea, an economic downturn, a negative Russian example, and a power shift from the US to China. Tønnesson will end his talk by suggesting ways to make the regional peace more sustainable.

### **Short bio: Stein Tønnesson**

Stein Tønnesson is research professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and adjunct professor at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, where he leads a programme on the East Asian Peace. He is associate editor for Asia in the Journal of Peace Research and member of the editorial board of Global Asia. He has done research on decolonisation, revolution, war and nation building in Southeast Asia, and the disputes in the South China Sea.