

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

ROLE CONCEPTIONS, INTER-ROLE CONFLICT AND ALLIANCES: EXPLAINING U.S. ASIA-PACIFIC ALLIES' FOREIGN POLICY CHOICES IN SINO-U.S. COMPETITION

WANG SHUQI, PPGA

Abstract

U.S. Asia-Pacific allies have responded differently to the increasing competition between the United States and China in the region despite their intimate military ties with the United States. Some states are more likely than others to be susceptible to American influence and adopt foreign policies that align with the United States in most policy areas, and some selectively pursue the U.S. policy on certain issues. Given the U.S. influence within the alliance system and these states' inclinations to accommodate American policies, the questions of what causes U.S. Asia-Pacific allies' different policy choices in the face of the Sino-U.S. competition in the region and when these states are more likely to follow the U.S. policy are worth discussing.

Since the existing literature that situates power and material factors sometimes has difficulty explaining U.S. Asia-Pacific allies' puzzling behavior, this study intends to propose an ideational theoretical model by applying concepts from role theory into the alliance system.

I hypothesize that for a U.S. Asia-Pacific ally, the inter-role conflict between its U.S. ally role and its issue-based role is an important factor affecting its foreign policy preferences regarding Sino-U.S. competition. I aim to examine how role conceptions and the inter-role conflict over roles shape U.S. Asia-Pacific allies' foreign policy preferences by exploring the policies of Australia, Thailand, Japan and South Korea from 2011 to 2019 on the South China Sea dispute and their responses to the South China Sea Arbitration respectively. My study is thus not only an attempt to fill a gap in the existing literature on alliance management about the reasons for weaker

**Friday
23 Oct 2020**

1130am

**Venue:
TEAMS Meeting**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES**

**NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY**

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

ROLE CONCEPTIONS, INTER-ROLE CONFLICT AND ALLIANCES: EXPLAINING U.S. ASIA-PACIFIC ALLIES' FOREIGN POLICY CHOICES IN SINO-U.S. COMPETITION

WANG SHUQI, PPGA

Continued.....

allies to behave differently, but also to explain secondary states' behavior in response to great power rivalries with a new perspective. In short, it seeks to argue that ideational factors such as role and identity can constrain the behavior of states, even within the alliances that are formed for power, security, or threat.

Proceedings

Duration	Session
5 mins	Chair Welcome & Introduction of Panel
30-45mins	Presentation by Student
15 mins	Q&A (by audience – faculty / students)
Break	Audience to leave the meeting
30 mins	Q&A by Panel
15 mins	Chairperson to ask candidate to leave the meeting Private Panel Discussion and Decision on the Qualifying Examination
15 mins	Candidate invited back by Chairperson Feedback and Outcome of Qualifying Examination

**Friday
23 Oct 2020**

1130am

**Venue:
TEAMS Meeting**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**