



HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
The International Peace & Coexistence Programme

A Psychodynamic Approach to Avoiding War between The United States and China

Psychological factors influence international relations. The historical past of a country, especially its collective and cultural trauma, affects the way it manages its domestic issues and its foreign relations. Some of these shared traumatic experiences are long forgotten as a collusive silence prevent people from talking freely about it. The reactivation of such hidden latent trauma is often associated with an unleashing of emotion and destructive forces that overwhelm the mind and cause a collapse of rational thinking. An understanding of these processes from a psychodynamic perspective can help manage the psychological risks that lead countries going to war. This lecture is an application of some psychodynamic thinking to avoid war between the United States and China.



A LECTURE BY

Dr Eugen Koh

University of Melbourne

Dr. Eugen Koh, a psychiatrist and trauma recovery specialist, directs NGOs promoting peace through art, culture, and psychodynamic thinking. With 20+ years of experience, he advises conflict mediation teams, international organizations, and think tanks on collective trauma, peace processes, and healing. Actively engaged in mental health projects in Japan for 14 years, he co-convenes the Study Group on Japan's WW2 Trauma. Currently, he collaborates with international experts to address psychological risks in potential US-China conflict. Dr. Koh is a Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne's School of Global and Population Health and serves as a Visiting Professor at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan.

The 20th International
Peace & Coexistence
Seminar

Memory studies - JSPS21KK0032 PI: Dr Luli van der Does

Tuesday, 13 June 2023

16:30–18:30

IDEC Large Conference Room

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