

Global Careers Through Asia Conference 2026

FEBRUARY 13TH, 2026
1:00PM - 6:00PM

Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
315 Bloor Street West, Toronto

*Presented by the
Contemporary Asian Studies
Student Union & Asian Institute*



ASIAN
INSTITUTE

munk school
OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

ABOUT

The Asian Institute

The Asian Institute is one of the world's leading centres of research excellence in Asian Studies. With over one hundred affiliated scholars working across the humanities and social sciences, the Asian Institute convenes and leads cross-regional, interdisciplinary research on Asia. Our faculty and students offer meaningful insights into a wide range of crucial issues at stake in this dynamic region of the globe. The location of the Asian Institute at the University of Toronto, a premier university in a city with deep historical and vibrant contemporary ties to Asia, gives the Institute a rich academic and geographical anchor for research on Asia.

Contemporary Asian Studies Student Union (CASSU)

CASSU is the undergraduate course union for the Dr. David Chu Program in Contemporary Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. CASSU was founded in 2010 and strives to strengthen students' understanding of contemporary Asia from a global perspective in a non-classroom setting. CASSU organizes social, cultural, academic and professional events related to Asia and represents all undergraduate students affiliated or registered with the Contemporary Asian Studies program.

Global Careers Through Asia Conference (GCC)

The Global Careers through Asia Conference is CASSU's annual flagship event, aiming to foster community between the Asian Institute's undergraduate students and alumni. Whether in the CAS/SAS program or exploring post-grad opportunities from another discipline, the GCC offers valuable insights for all students. Through a keynote address, panel discussions, and networking dinner with a diverse range of industry professionals, students can learn more about potential career paths and create meaningful connections with alumni.

AGENDA

Global Careers Through Asia Conference (GCC)

1:00 - 6:00 PM, Friday February 13th, 2026

Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, 315 Bloor Street West, Toronto

1:00 - 1:20 PM

Arrival & Registration

Welcome by Contemporary Asian Studies Student Union

1:20 - 1:30 PM

Opening Remarks

Dr. Francis Cody, Director of Dr. David Chu Program in Contemporary Asian Studies

1:30 - 2:00 PM

Keynote with Q&A

Julia G. Bentley, Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Panel 1

Irene Poetranto, Senior Researcher at The Citizen Lab

Elizabeth Shaw, Senior Fundraising Officer at Action Against Hunger

Alex Treasure, Founder & CEO of Arkhaio Solutions Ltd.

Colum-Grove White, Director of Orders in Council at Privy Council Office

3:00 - 3:20 PM

Q&A *Moderated by CASSU*

3:20 - 3:40 PM

Coffee Break & Networking

3:40 - 4:40 PM

Panel 2

Mia Nguyen, Marketing Manager at eBay

Rachael Gurney, Senior Project Specialist in International Trade and Investment at Asia-Pacific Foundation Canada

Jillian Sprenger, Articling Student at Tory's LLP

Joy Chan, Associate at PwC

Flavian Berneaga, Policy Analyst at Global Affairs Canada

4:40 - 5:00 PM

Q&A *Moderated by CASSU*

Closing Remarks

By Contemporary Asian Studies Student Union

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Dinner & Networking



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Julia G. Bentley

Julia G. Bentley served in the Canadian foreign service with distinction for 32 years, occupying several senior executive positions at Global Affairs Canada related to Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia, encompassing foreign policy, development, trade, and investment. She has also represented Canada abroad across Asia. She served as Canada's High Commissioner in Malaysia (2017-2020) and previously at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing (twice), the Canadian High Commission in Delhi, and the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei. Combined with other roles including as a teacher, development consultant, and head of an international organization, she spent 22 years in Asia. In 2022, Julia was on secondment for a year at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. She was awarded a policy practitioner fellowship at the University of British Columbia's School of Public Policy and Global Affairs for a semester in spring 2023. She was awarded a grant from York University's China Insight's Fund and a Taiwan Fellowship to conduct research for three months in spring 2025, based at National Taiwan University's Centre for China Research. She holds degrees in East Asian Studies from Princeton University and University of Toronto, as well as a post-graduate diploma from Nanjing University in modern Chinese history. Julia is a distinguished fellow of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, an external research associate of York Centre for Asian Research, a Non-Resident Fellow at National Taiwan University's Centre for China Studies, and a member of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Malaysia.

OUR PANELISTS



Flavian Berneaga

Flavian Berneaga holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from the University of Toronto, a Master of European Politics and Policies from the University of Leuven, and a Master of China Studies, Politics and International Relations from the Yenching Academy of Peking University in Beijing. Flavian was also a Yenching Scholar that allowed him to concentrate on studies and policy research between China-Canada relations. Presently, he is working with Canada China Forum and is a policy analyst for Global Affairs Canada.



Joy Chan

Joy Chan graduated from Victoria College, University of Toronto with a double degree in Political Science and Contemporary Asian Studies. She now works as a Risk and Regulatory Consultant at PwC Hong Kong, performing internal audit, regulatory compliance, and consultancy services for the government and financial sector (retail/commercial/investment banks, cryptocurrency firms, and insurance companies). During her undergraduate career, she was active in campus life, organising academic panels as an Executive-at-Large of the Association of Political Science Students, and contributed to research as a Munk School ITAC Research Fellow and Political Science department Research Assistant. She also spent three years at the G7/G20 Research Groups, progressing from Compliance Analyst to Compliance Director, and was funded to attend the 49th G7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan, as a Member of Press, covering Digital Economy commitments.



Rachael Gurney

Rachael Gurney is a Senior Project Specialist in International Trade and Investment, at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. She leads the Investment Monitor database project which tracks two-way foreign direct investment between Canada and the Asia Pacific region. She has a M.A. in Political Science and Contemporary East Asian and Southeast Asian studies from the University of Toronto. Her graduate research focused on resource nationalism in Indonesia's critical mineral mining policies which has carried into her with APFC regarding critical minerals and natural resource investment and trade.

OUR PANELISTS

Colum Grove-White



Colum Grove-White is a senior public servant with over a decade of experience at the intersection of governance, digital transformation, and public policy. As Director of Orders in Council at the Privy Council Office, he oversees the Governor in Council process that brings Cabinet decisions, ministerial appointments, and regulations into legal force, including supporting Cabinet shuffles and ministerial swearing-ins. He led the modernization of this system from paper-based to digital. His work has contributed to institutional change across access to information, digital service delivery, climate innovation, and democratic engagement, including briefing ministers and supporting the Prime Minister. Outside government, Colum provides strategic leadership in community-based initiatives, including LGBTQ+ refugee sponsorship and leadership roles in the arts and civic sectors.

Mia Nguyen

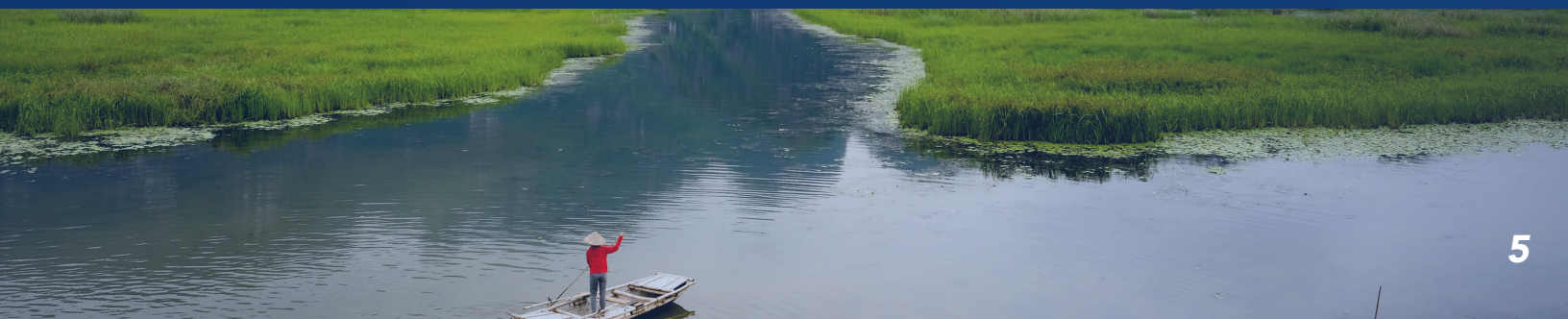


Mia Nguyen is a Marketing Manager at eBay, where she oversees initiatives across North America, Europe, and APAC. She began her career in product marketing, working across startups and global tech companies on go-to-market strategy, product launches, and growth initiatives. Alongside her corporate career, Mia is the founder of Viet Boss Babe, a community and media platform that creates events and stories through a Vietnamese lens—open to everyone. What started as a passion project has grown into a space focused on career exploration, cultural connection, and navigating adulthood with intention. She enjoys bridging culture, creativity, and career building.

Irene Poetranto



Irene Poetranto is a Senior Researcher at The Citizen Lab, an interdisciplinary research lab focused on digital technology and human rights, based at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy. She leads research on information controls, surveillance technologies, and algorithmic governance, with a focus on their impact on human rights, democracy, and civic engagement. Irene has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto, a Master's degree in Political Science and Asia Pacific Studies from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of British Columbia (UBC). Irene has taught in the Department of Political Science, the Asian Institute, and the Munk School at the University of Toronto. She was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia.



OUR PANELISTS



Elizabeth Shaw

Elizabeth is a global affairs professional with experience in strategy, research, and partnerships across various UN agencies, NGOs, and think tanks. She is currently the Senior Fundraising Officer at Action Against Hunger Canada, a global humanitarian organization dedicated to tackling hunger and its root causes. Prior to joining Action Against Hunger, she worked at the Institute for Canadian Citizenship in Toronto, the International Labour Organization and the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. Elizabeth holds a MSc in International Migration and Public Policy from the London School of Economics and a BA in Peace, Conflict and Justice and Contemporary Asian Studies from the University of Toronto.



Jillian Sprenger

Jillian Sprenger is an articling student at Torys LLP and will be called to the Ontario Bar in June 2026. She holds a Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Civil Law from McGill University Faculty of Law. She has previously completed graduate studies in environmental policy as a Gates Scholar at the University of Cambridge, as well as graduate and undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto. Her prior work and writing have focused primarily on climate-related issues, and her fieldwork has taken her to Myanmar, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, and Ecuador.



Alexander (Alex) Treasure

Alexander Treasure is a problem solver, a former computer science grad who became a software engineer for a few years before pivoting to try and solve larger, societal problems. His academic background includes a Master's in Public Administration from LSE and a Master's in Global Affairs from the University of Toronto. He specializes in working with data, bringing a hands-on approach to research and policy with a dual perspective on tech. Current ventures include entrepreneurship, writing, and research (in hopeful prep to pursue a PhD).

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Francis Cody

Director, Dr. David Chu Program in
Contemporary Asian Studies

Phillip Lipsy

Director, Asian Institute

Nina Boric

Manager, Asian Institute

Shannon Garden-Smith

Research Coordinator, Asian Institute

Rebecca (Jiaying) Bi

Program Administrator &
Communications Officer,
Asian Institute

Naseem Hashim

Events Coordinator & Administrator,
Asian Institute

Rie Aiyama

Co-President, CASSU

Ethan Yuan

Co-President, CASSU

Calleigh Pan

Vice President, CASSU

Sarah Padwal

Marketing Director, CASSU

Antoinette De Los Reyes

Marketing Associate, CASSU

Mingjingzi (Luna) Liu

Academic Director, CASSU

Cindy Phou

Treasurer, CASSU

Gigi Devlin

Junior Representative, CASSU

Hannah Yin

Advisor, CASSU



ASIAN
INSTITUTE

munk school
OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC POLICY



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO