

## RMIT Social and Global Studies Centre Presents



**The United States and China are veering perilously close to war in the South China Sea. Australia is, by virtue of its alliance with the US, also at risk of being drawn into a potentially devastating conflict, without any serious public debate at home about precisely which Australian interests are at stake and what ends might be served by armed conflict, whatever the scale, with Australia's largest trading partner.**

The US and China are making preparations for war with each other. The leaders of both countries are becoming more bellicose in their public defence of national geo-strategic interests in Asia. Open and sustained conflict would cost the lives of many service men and women on all sides. The impacts on a weakening Australian economy would be severe, most likely catastrophic. The potential social consequences also cannot be overstated. Past official and public mistrust of diasporic communities from countries with which Australia has been at war, suggests that, in the event of conflict, members of the Chinese diaspora in Australia would face persecution, internment or exile. Suspicions of divided loyalties, and suggestions of actual and possible treachery shade media representations of recent migrants from mainland China and Chinese investment in Australian resources.

This seminar brings together a panel of experts on US foreign policy, Australian national security policy and Australia-China social and economic relations to discuss the actual and potential fallout from continuing US-China strategic rivalry to Australia's north.

Panellists include:

- **Professor Joseph Siracusa** (RMIT)
- **Mr Peter Jennings** (Australian Strategic Policy Institute), and
- **Dr Sow Keat Tok** (Asia Institute, UOM).



The panel will be chaired by **Associate Professor Paul Battersby** (RMIT).

*A light lunch and refreshments will be available from 12 pm.*

*The Coming War with China?* is presented by the Australia-China Studies Forum & AsiaPacific@RMIT, Social and Global Studies Centre.