

THE RISE OF OCEAN REGIONS GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES FOR THE INDO-PACIFIC AND THE ATLANTIC



Organising Institutions

Atlantic Centre, Portugal

United Nations University - Institute for Comparative Regional
Integration Studies, Belgium

Faculty of Humanities, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Date

2-3 November 2022

VENUE

SRC Boardroom of the University of Pretoria (Hatfield Campus)

The past several years have seen a dramatic and renewed interest in 'oceanic worlds/regions', most obvious of which are the maritime component of China's Belt and Road Initiative and the evolution of the Indo-Pacific region, driven by the US, Japan, India and Australia (the 'Quad') and other actors. Although the set-up of regional organisations still tends to be terra-centric, oceans are not merely fringes and margins, confined to being lanes of transport and communication. Rather, we are witnessing the development of the 'century of the oceans'.

This trend goes beyond riparian states. NATO recently mentioned the future incorporation of the Indo-Pacific into its Strategic Concept (2022) and referred specifically to Sino-American power rivalry. Beyond the Indo-Pacific, big and medium powers (the US, China and India in particular) are also turning to the Atlantic - historically part of the NATO sphere of influence - as a theatre of influence and interest, especially in the Southern Ocean and around Antarctica, where there is evidence of growing Russian involvement. Ocean spaces are being redefined strategically in terms of maritime perimeters as a way to project power and protect interests beyond continental vicinities. Abdenur and De Souza Neto in a 2014 article titled, 'Region-building by rising powers' in the Journal of the Indian Ocean Region, remind us that '[f]ar from being "naturally" delineated by geography or bound solely through shared culture, regions are actively constructed by states and other actors pursuing specific interests'.

The Indian Ocean, sharing with the South Atlantic the status of an UN-declared Zone of Peace, is heavily militarised, and the Eastern Southern Atlantic, along the coast of West Africa, is experiencing a continued increase in piracy, maritime terrorism and so-called blue crimes.

Overall, there is little doubt that the construction and governance of ocean regions will continue to be a top priority of great and emerging powers as well as regional and international organisations. The African continent faces a notable challenge in this regard, as both the African Union and its member states are seeking to position themselves in the rapidly evolving environment on their various maritime shores.

These developments generate a range of questions. What are the interests of the various internal and external actors? What do the recent strategy documents towards the Indo-Pacific/Indian Ocean/South Atlantic entail? What are the issues driving ocean regionalisation? Are there grounds to promote cooperation between these two vast maritime spaces to foster bi-oceanic governance? And what are African positions on its maritime spaces? What role can the African Union and a strategically located country such as South Africa play? These questions and related themes will form the focus of our conversations on 2-3 November.

This colloquium brings together academics, researchers and practitioners to discuss approaches to and experiences in ocean region-making and governance. We will have brief inputs by the panellists at the start of each session, followed by discussion with the plenary. The colloquium is subject to the Chatham House rule. A report of the deliberations will be compiled and distributed.

DAY 1 | 02 NOVEMBER

09:30 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:30	<p>Introduction and Welcome</p> <p>Prof Maxi Schoeman (University of Pretoria) Prof Licínia Simão (Atlantic Centre) Dr Frank Mattheis (United Nations University)</p>
10:30 - 12:00	<p>Session 1: How Did We Get Here and Where is 'Here'? Exploring the Evolution of Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean</p> <p>What is the impact of regional and global rivalries on the Indo Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean? What are the implications of the different delineations of maritime regions? What are the key drivers of regional and sub-regional insecurity?</p> <p><i>Chair: Mr Roland Henwood (University of Pretoria)</i></p> <p><i>Dr Lisa Otto (University of Johannesburg)</i> <i>Dr Garth le Pere (University of Pretoria)</i> <i>Prof Chris Alden (LSE/University of Pretoria)</i></p>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch break
13:00 - 14:30	<p>Session 2: Actors, interests and policy issues</p> <p>What are the main traditional and non-traditional issues related to maritime security in each of these ocean regions? How does environmental security/climate change shape the regional outlook? What is the impact of non-state actors, such as transnational criminal organisations on the region? How do different actors seek to build their coast guard/naval capabilities?</p> <p><i>Chair: Prof Katabaro Miti (University of Pretoria)</i></p> <p><i>Dr Carina Bruwer (Institute for Security Studies)</i> <i>Frigate Captain Luís Cabral (Ministry of National Defence, Portugal)</i> <i>Dr Sergio Chichava (Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique)</i> <i>Mr Tim Walker (University of Pretoria/Institute for Security Studies)</i></p>

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14:30 - 15:00	Tea break
15:00 - 16:30	<p>Session 3: Maritime Strategies for the Indo-Pacific and the Atlantic</p> <p>Why are the Southern oceans considered to be important by regional and global powers?</p> <p>What role do the major powers foresee for themselves?</p> <p>How is the involvement of external actors perceived?</p> <p>What is the impact of the various national strategies?</p> <p>Chair: <i>Dr Frank Mattheis (United Nations University - CRIS)</i></p> <p><i>Dr David Camroux (Sciences Po Paris / Franco-German Observatory of the Indo-Pacific)</i></p> <p><i>Prof Daniel Hamilton (Johns Hopkins University)</i></p> <p><i>Prof Danilo Marcondes (Brazilian War College (ESG))</i></p> <p><i>Ms Sanusha Naidu (Institute for Global Dialogue)</i></p> <p><i>Dr Yu-Shan Wu (University of Pretoria)</i></p>
16:30 - 16:45	Comfort break
16:45 - 18:00	<p>Towards Agenda 2063: Youth Perspectives on the Maritime Domain</p> <p>To what extent is there an interest in and contribution from African youth to deliberations on the maritime domain in the context of the continent's future</p> <p>Chair: <i>Dr Yu-Shan Wu (University of Pretoria)</i></p> <p><i>Ms Cynthia Chigwenya (Southern Africa Youth Ambassador for Peace)</i></p> <p><i>Ms Tshegofatso Ramachela (University of Pretoria/Institute for Security Studies)</i></p> <p><i>Mr David Willima (University of Pretoria/Institute for Security Studies)</i></p>
19:00	Dinner (by invitation)

DAY 2 | 03 NOVEMBER

08:30 - 09:00	Registration (tea and coffee available)
09:00 - 10:30	<p>Session 4: Multilateral and Regional Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean</p> <p>What role do regional and multilateral institutions play in building cooperation (e.g., Indian Ocean Rim Association, Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, African Union, Gulf of Guinea Commission, Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, BRICS, IBSA etc)?</p> <p>Is functional cooperation more effective than political institutions?</p> <p>What does the fragmentation and overlap of regional institutions say about maritime governance?</p> <p>Chair: <i>Dr Philani Mthembu (Institute for Global Dialogue)</i></p> <p><i>Mr Jaimal Anand (University of Pretoria/DIRCO)</i></p> <p><i>Mr Tim Walker (University of Pretoria/Institute for Security Studies)</i></p> <p><i>Prof Licinia Simão (Atlantic Centre)</i></p> <p><i>Dr Frank Mattheis (United Nations University)</i></p>
10:30 - 11:00	Tea break
11:00 - 12:30	<p>Session 5: African and South African Perspectives on Maritime Governance</p> <p>What role for South Africa as a bi-oceanic African country?</p> <p>To what extent do Africa's concerns overlap with those of other actors in these regions and what are the responses and strategies on the continental and regional level?</p> <p>Chair: <i>Prof Licinia Simão (Atlantic Centre)</i></p> <p><i>Dr Fonteh Akum (Institute for Security Studies)</i></p> <p><i>Mr Dhesigen Naidoo (Presidential Climate Change Commission / Institute for Security Studies)</i></p> <p><i>Rear-Admiral (ret.) Derek Christian</i></p> <p><i>Prof Anthoni van Nieuwkerk (University of South Africa)</i></p>
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch break

DAY 2 | 03 NOVEMBER

13:30 - 15:00	Session 6: Policy dialogue - Bringing together research and practice Moderators: <i>Ambassador Anil Sooklal (Department of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa)</i> <i>Ambassador Manuel Carvalho (Embassy of Portugal to South Africa)</i>
15:00	Closure and vote of thanks

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