

Dr Christopher J. Watterson

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EMPLOYMENT

- **Research Fellow**, United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney (2023–)
- **Research Associate, Fellow**, Department of War Studies, King’s College London (2019–23)
- **Project Officer**, University of Technology Sydney (2008–18).

EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Philosophy**, The University of Sydney (2018)
- **Master of International Security**, The University of Sydney (2013)
- **Bachelor of Science (Honours)**, University of Newcastle, Australia (2008).

EXPERTISE

- **Topics:** Nuclear proliferation, strategic trade, Indo-Pacific security
- **Methods:** Case studies, process tracing, experimental wargaming, tabletop exercises, focus groups, Delphi forecasting, archival research, ANOVA, regression.

GRANT CAPTURE

2025	Value redacted, Co-Investigator, ‘Coalition Air and Missile Defence,’ Northrop Grumman
2025	AUD 242,665.90, Principal Investigator, ‘Nuclear Crossroads: Informing Australia’s Response to Emerging Proliferation Challenges,’ Australian Department of Defence
2020	GBP 810,044.00, Principal Investigator, ‘Strengthening trade controls through port management policy and practice,’ funder redacted
2020	GBP 64,678.00, Principal Investigator, ‘Monitoring DPRK sanctions evasion and labour flows,’ funder redacted.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

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| 2026 | Watterson, Christopher J. and Ana Sánchez Cobaleda. ‘Trade, Technology, and the Ivory Tower: Mapping Export Control Risks in Higher Education,’ <i>Global Trade and Customs Journal</i> 21, no. 3–4 (2026). |
| 2025 | Watterson, Christopher J., Kartuzov, Egor and Steve Osborne. ‘The obstruction of customs enforcement at privately operated port terminals: A study of Chinese state-owned enterprises,’ <i>Journal of Strategic Trade Control</i> 3 (2025). |
| 2023 | Watterson, Christopher J., de Saint-Rapt, Jean Annet and Eunha Yun. ‘China’s state-led international port development: Challenges for port states,’ <i>Marine Policy</i> 155 (2023). |
| 2020 | Watterson, Christopher J., Osborne, Stephen and Samuel Grant. ‘Open registries as an enabler of maritime sanctions evasion,’ <i>Marine Policy</i> 119 (2020). |
| 2020 | Watterson, Christopher J. “Nuclear weapons and limited war: A return to the nuclear battlefield?” <i>Comparative Strategy</i> 39, no. 1 (2020): 18-28. |
| 2017 | Watterson, Christopher J. “Competing Interpretations of the Stability–Instability Paradox: The Case of the Kargil War.” <i>The Nonproliferation Review</i> 24, no. 1-2 (2017): 83-99. |
| 2016 | Watterson, Christopher and Adam Kamradt-Scott. “Fighting Flu: Securitization and the Military Role in Combating Influenza.” <i>Armed Forces & Society</i> 42, no. 1 (2016): 145-68. |

Occasional papers

- 2026 Watterson, Christopher J., Green, Michael J., Dean, Peter, Kanehara, Nobukatsu, Yamamoto, Katsuya and Takuma Matsu. *Grey-zone games: Lessons from the 2025 AJUS simulation* (Sydney, United States Studies Centre).
- 2026 Watterson, Christopher J. and Peter J. Dean. *Missiles and multipolarity: Can an Indo-Pacific coalition defeat China's missile overmatch?* (Sydney, United States Studies Centre).
- 2025 Watterson, Christopher J. *US MTCR reform and its implications for Australian industry and defence* (Sydney, United States Studies Centre: 2025).
- 2025 Watterson, Christopher J., Green, Michael J., Dean, Peter, Kanehara, Nobukatsu, Yamamoto, Katsuya and Takuma Matsu. *US-Australia-Japan strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific: Testing trilateralism through crisis simulation* (Sydney, United States Studies Centre: 2025).
- 2024 Watterson, Christopher J. *Seizing the moment: Outcomes of the inaugural Australia-Japan-South Korea trilateral dialogue* (Sydney, United States Studies Centre: 2024).
- 2024 Watterson, Christopher J. *Australia and the emerging nuclear order in Northeast Asia* (Sydney, United States Studies Centre: 2024).
- 2023 Boke, Cem; Drew, Martin; Easton, Marleen; Evans, Nick; Horton, Andrew; Leenman, Dennis; Osborne, Stephen; Watterson, Christopher J.; Watts, Neil and Yvonne Yew. *Handbook of best practices for strategic trade control enforcement at ports*, CSSS Occasional Paper Series (London, King's College London: 2023).

Conference papers

American Political Science Association (APSA): 2026

European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST): 2024.

Book reviews

- 2023 Watterson, Christopher J. 'Nuclear Decisions: Changing the Course of Nuclear Weapons Programs. By Lisa Langdon Koch. New York: Oxford University Press. 2023.' *Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament* 6, no. 2 (2023): 310-11.
- 2020 Watterson, Christopher J. 'Kim Jong Un and the bomb: Survival and deterrence in North Korea. By Ankit Panda. London: Hurst Publishers. 2020.' *International Affairs* 96, no. 5 (2020): 1425-6.

Short form

- 2026 Watterson, Christopher J. *From lecture halls to jail cells: the rising risks of university research*, The Strategist: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/from-lecture-halls-to-jail-cells-the-rising-risks-of-university-research/>.
- 2026 Watterson, Christopher J. *Closing the Air and Missile Defense Gap in the Indo-Pacific*, War on the Rocks: <https://warontherocks.com/2026/04/closing-the-air-and-missile-defense-gap-in-the-indo-pacific/>.
- 2026 Watterson, Christopher J. *The nuclear ban treaty isn't winning over the states that matter*, The Interpreter: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/nuclear-ban-treaty-isn-t-winning-over-states-matter>.
- 2025 Watterson, Christopher J. *Nuclear non-proliferation: Louder questions about extended deterrence in 'Unpacking Trump 2.0'*, United States Studies Centre: <https://www.ussc.edu.au/nuclear-non-proliferation-louder-questions-about-extended-deterrence>.
- 2025 Watterson, Christopher J. *The New Face of North Korean Sanctions Monitoring: Can the MSMT Pick Up Where the Panel of Experts Left Off?*, 38 North: <https://www.38north.org/2025/04/the-new-face-of-north-korean-sanctions-monitoring-can-the-msmt-pick-up-where-the-panel-of-experts-left-off/>.
- 2024 Watterson, Christopher J. *The DPRK-Russia 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' and the future of sanctions against North Korea*, United States Studies Centre: <https://www.ussc.edu.au/the-dprk-russia-comprehensive-strategic-partnership-and-the-future-of-sanctions-against-north-korea>.
- 2023 Watterson, Christopher J. *Lights, Camera, Deterrence: What Oppenheimer tells us about nuclear security*, King's College London: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/lights-camera-deterrence-what-oppenheimer-tells-us-about-nuclear-security>.

- 2023 Watterson, Christopher J. *Examining China's Global Port Empire*, *The National Interest*: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/examining-china%E2%80%99s-global-port-empire-206555>.
- 2020 Watterson, Christopher J. *Maximum Pressure Made Permeable: The Trouble With Washington's North Korea Sanctions*, *War on the Rocks*: <https://warontherocks.com/2020/01/maximum-pressure-made-permeable-the-trouble-with-washingtons-north-korea-sanctions/>.
- 2019 Watterson, Christopher J. 'What next for sanctions against North Korea?' *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* 75, no. 5 (2019): 247-51. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00963402.2019.1654270>.
- 2019 Watterson, Christopher J. *No Time to Abandon Denuclearization*, *Council on Foreign Relations*: <https://www.cfr.org/blog/no-time-abandon-denuclearization>.
- 2019 Watterson, Christopher J., *What the Hanoi Summit Tells Us About North Korea's Nuclear Intentions*, *The Diplomat*: <https://thediplomat.com/2019/03/what-the-hanoi-summit-tells-us-about-north-koreas-nuclear-intentions/>.
- 2018 Watterson, Christopher, *Four Ways North Korea's Nukes Spell Trouble for the US – Even If They're Never Used*, *Defense One*: <http://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2018/06/four-ways-kims-nukes-spell-trouble-us-even-if-theyre-never-used/148724>.
- 2018 Watterson, Christopher J. 'What North Korea's nuclear weapons mean for Australian national security.' *Quarterly Access* 11, no. 1: 4-7.
- 2018 Watterson, Christopher J., *North Korea's Nuclear Weapons and Australia's National Security*, *Australian Outlook*: <http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/what-north-koreas-nuclear-weapons-mean-for-australian-national-security/>.

TEACHING

Unit coordinator

- 2023 The Long View: Understanding International Relations through History (UG), King's College London
- 2018 Chinese Politics (UG), Australian Catholic University

Supervision

- In progress PhD: Hannah Zou. Master's dissertations: Xavier Roche. Master's essays: Anushka Kumar.
- Completed Master's dissertations: Hannah Zou (2024). Master's essays: Hannah Zou (2024).

Guest lecturer

- 2025 The US in the Indo-Pacific (PG), The University of Sydney
- 2024, 2023 Contemporary Security Issues (UG), King's College London
- 2023 Disruptive Technology & the Global Order (PG), King's College London
- 2022, 2021 The Science and Security of Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Weapons (PG), King's College London
- 2015 Northeast Asian Politics (PG), The University of Sydney
- 2015 Capitalism and Democracy in East Asia (UG), The University of Sydney.

Teaching assistant/marker

- 2023 Armchair Intelligence: Open Source and Online Investigation (PG), King's College London
- 2022– Various honours and master's dissertations.
- 2018 Australia's Strategic and Defence Policy (PG), Macquarie University
- 2018 Introduction to Security Studies (UG), Macquarie University
- 2017, 2016 Nuclear Weapons (PG), Macquarie University
- 2016 Politics of China (UG), The University of Sydney
- 2016 International Security (PG), Macquarie University
- 2016 Advanced Security Studies (PG), Macquarie University
- 2015 Capitalism and Democracy in East Asia (UG), The University of Sydney.

Industry trainer

- 2022 Implementing and enforcing strategic trade controls at seaports, King's College London.

Academic advisory

- 2017 2017–18 undergraduate intake, The University of Sydney.

SELECT CONVENED EVENTS

Tabletop exercises & wargames

Sep 2026	'2026 Australia-Japan-United States Strategy Simulation,' Sydney, Australia
May 2026	'Coalition IAMD in the Indo-Pacific,' Tokyo, Japan
Mar 2026	'Indo-Pacific Nuclear Futures,' Sydney, Australia
Sep 2025	'2025 Australia-Japan-United States Strategy Simulation,' Sydney, Australia
Jun 2025	'2025 Coalition Air and Missile Defence TTX,' Honolulu, Hawaii
Nov 2024	'2024 Australia-Japan-United States Strategy Simulation,' Sydney, Australia.

Workshops & roundtables

Feb 2026	'Indo-Pacific Nuclear Futures,' virtual
Jul 2025	'Next Generation Leaders in the Alliance: The future of the Australia-US alliance,' Sydney, Australia
May 2025	'Next Generation Leaders in the Alliance: Space and Signals,' Sydney, Australia
Mar 2025	'The Political Economy of US-China Relations,' (with Australian National University) Sydney, Australia
Nov 2024	'Nuclear policy issues in Australia,' (with CSIS) Sydney, Australia
Oct 2024	'Nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear security, and the Australia-US alliance,' (with the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office) Sydney, Australia
Sep 2024	'Next Generation Leaders in the Alliance: Energy Security and the Alliance,' Sydney, Australia
Sep 2024	'Domestic Perspectives on Nuclear Deterrence & Non-proliferation,' (with CSIS) Sydney, Australia
Aug 2024	'Next Generation Leaders in the Alliance: Lawmaking in Democracies,' Sydney, Australia
Aug 2024	'Next Generation Leaders in the Alliance: Emerging Technology and the Defence Industrial Base,' Sydney, Australia
Aug 2024	'Australia-Japan Defence Relations,' (with University of Western Australia) Perth, Australia
Jun 2024	'Next Generation Leaders in the Alliance: The Free and Open Indo-Pacific,' Sydney, Australia
Jun 2024	'Australia-Korea-Japan Track-1.5 Dialogue: Future-oriented Cooperation,' Sydney, Australia
Nov 2023	'Introduction to OSINT in the social sciences,' for the Festival of Social Science, London, UK
Dec 2019	'Contemporary challenges in EU sanctions enforcement,' London, UK.

SELECT INVITED TALKS

Dec 2024	'Global and Regional Nuclear Strategic Deterrence,' Allied Extended Deterrence Workshop, Asan Institute for Policy Studies, Seoul, South Korea
Oct 2024	'AUKUS and nuclear non-proliferation,' Maritime GENIE Program, La Trobe Asia and Yokosuka Council on Asia-Pacific Studies (YCAPS), Sydney, Australia
Sep 2022	'Critical Infrastructure: Ports and Maritime Infrastructure,' Virtual Conference on Preventing Exploitation of Sensitive Technologies and Critical Assets, U.S. State Department, virtual
Jun 2022	'Mapping PRC Ports Activities,' host redacted, Rome, Italy
Apr 2022	'Critical Port Infrastructure,' Virtual Seminar on Preventing Exploitation of Critical Maritime Infrastructure, U.S. State Department, virtual
Oct 2021	'Critical Port Infrastructure,' Virtual Seminar on Preventing Exploitation of Sensitive Technologies and Critical Assets, U.S. State Department, virtual
Apr 2021	'DPRK labour flows in East Asia,' host redacted, virtual
Jan 2018	'70 years after accession: Does Pakistan Need Kashmir?,' Pakistan Summit II, South Asia Study Group, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.

SELECT CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION (invited participant)

Apr 2026	'Civil Society Consultations for the 2026 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference,' Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, virtual
Feb 2026	'Sharing the Burden: Preparing for Maritime Security Competition in the Indo-Pacific,' Lowy Institute and ORF America, Sydney, Australia
Aug 2025	'US Alliance and Deterrence Roundtable,' Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

Oct-Dec 2024	'GUARDIAN TIGER III, Limited Nuclear Attack in East Asia—Ally Advisory Group workshops, Atlantic Council, virtual
Apr 2024	'Countering WMD Threats in the Indo-Pacific: Capstone Dialogue,' Atlantic Council, Singapore
Oct 2023	'UK perspectives towards AUKUS,' RUSI, London, UK
May 2019	'Nuclear non-proliferation and emerging technology,' VCDNP, Vienna, Austria.

SERVICE

- Peer reviewer: *Armed Forces and Society*, *Asian Studies Review*, *Marine Policy*, Routledge Press, and the Israel Science Foundation Grants Program
- Expert commentator: ABC, BBC, Sky News, Indus News
- Professional memberships: Australian Political Studies Association.

King's College London

2022–23	Publication and Impact Coordinator, Centre for Science and Security Studies
2021–22	Internal Seminar Series Coordinator, Centre for Science and Security Studies
2021	Convenor, Centre for Science and Security Studies Journal Club
2019–20	Sanctions Lead, Project Alpha.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2023-25	Visiting Fellowship, Centre for Science and Security Studies, King's College London
2023	King's College London Impact Acceleration (GBP 970)
2015	Student teaching commendation, University of Sydney
2006	Study Abroad Scholarship (tuition and JPY 320,000), Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, Japan
2004	Commonwealth Accommodation Costs scholarship (AUD 32,000), University of Newcastle, Australia.