



Australian Crisis
Simulation Summit

ACSS Stakeholder Update

September 2022
Edition No. 4





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Comment from Academic Consultant

Introduction

I'm John Blaxland, Professor of International Security and Intelligence Studies at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, College of Asia and the Pacific at the ANU. I teach "STST3003: Honeypots and Overcoats" Australian Intelligence in the World".



JOHN BLAXAND

PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY & INTELLIGENCE STUDIES AT
THE STRATEGIC AND DEFENCE STUDIES
CENTRE, ANU

What is your involvement with the ACSS is this year?

I have been involved as a mentor and consultant with ACSS since the outset and will remain in that capacity for ACSS 2022

What opportunity you believe the ACSS offers?

ACSS offers an incredibly realistic opportunity to test and hone skills through a set of simulated but highly realistic crisis situations. Students who participate get to meet and network with senior state and federal government officials, corporate executives as well as academics, journalists and other practitioners across the national security space. Students who participate invariably value the opportunity to learn from the experience and from the people they meet at the ACSS. This is a stretching exercise that takes the students beyond the realm of theory to where it is applied in a fast-paced, stimulating and challenging environment. Decisions have to be made with limited time, incomplete knowledge, competing priorities and divergent interests of stakeholders. Much like in many jobs in the national security domain, and across a range jobs in industry, challenges require innovative, collaborative thinking and the ability to stay calm in the middle of a storm. The ACSS is a challenging but richly rewarding experience for all those who participate.

What do you hope to see from the delegates this year, in terms of approaching the crises?

I anticipate seeing enthusiastic smart students reflecting deeply on recent crises and challenges to come up with innovative responses to the crisis simulations and the issues they raise. The buzz and excitement of participating in a challenging but realistic setting, with a specific and important role to play, alongside some of the brightest and most enthusiastic students in Australia is an amazing experience. For those with a sense of adventure and who are up for a challenge, I can't recommend the ACSS strongly enough.



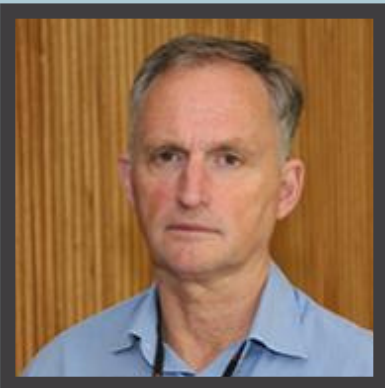
Mentor Spotlight



LESZEK BUSZYNSKI

HONORARY PROFESSOR IN THE
STRATEGIC & DEFENCE STUDIES CENTRE

"I am an Honorary Professor at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the ANU. Previously, I was professor of international relations at the International University of Japan. My research interest is Asian security, the Korean peninsula, the South China Sea and now the Indo-Pacific. I hope ACSS will provide an opportunity for Australian students to become more aware of Asian security and what to expect in a crisis. Simulation exercises if properly conducted and organised according to realistic scenarios, I stress the word realistic, can stimulate the mind and make students more aware of the important issues, much more so than any lecture can do alone" - Leszek B.



DAVID ENGEL

SENIOR ANALYST ON INDONESIA IN
ASPI'S DEFENCE AND STRATEGY
PROGRAM

Before joining ASPI, David spent 30 years in the Australian Public Service, mainly in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Besides serving as Australia's Ambassador to Mexico and the countries of Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, he also served twice in Australia's embassy in Jakarta, on the last occasion as Minister-Deputy Head of Mission. He also served overseas as Counsellor in Australia's embassy in Washington, and as Second Secretary in the embassy in Phnom Penh. In Canberra, he held the position of Assistant Director-General, South East Asia, in the former Office of National Assessments, as well as Assistant Secretary for Policy Planning, Assistant Secretary Global Issues, and Director of DFAT's Indonesia desk. This year David is acting as a mentor for the ACSS and working closely with the crisis team on the regional simulation.

If you want to get involved as a mentor:

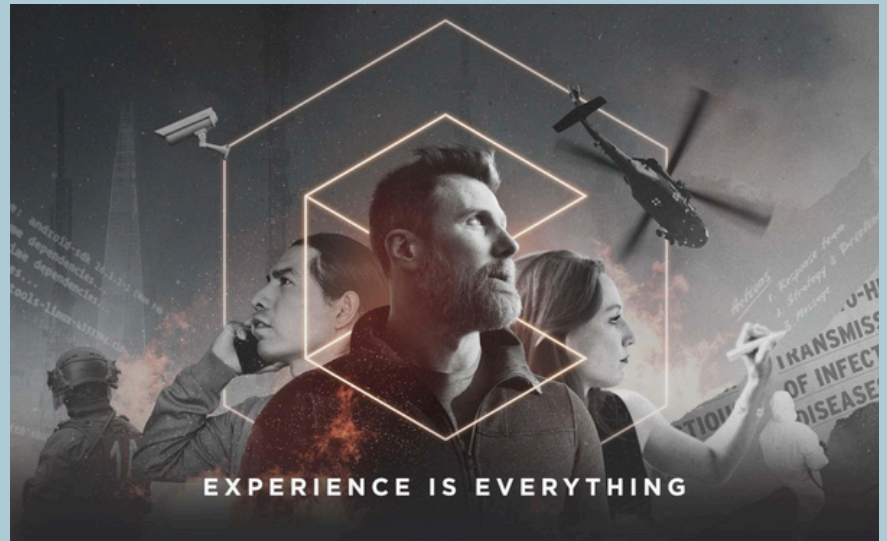
The ACSS is always looking for experts and experienced practitioners from across academia, government or the private sector to get involved as mentors or consultants. If you are interested in becoming a mentor for the ACSS and working with the next generation of young leaders please email us at acss@anu.edu.au - we would love to hear from you.



Sponsor Spotlight

About

Conducttr is the world's leading crisis simulation platform. Our mission is to make everyone's life an adventure as through adventure we are all able to achieve our potential in life. To create adventures we fuse technology and storytelling to develop engaging, immersive exercises of unparalleled realism. Our clients include NATO, the Foreign Exchange Office, UK Ministry of Defence and many others.



Conducttr is the world's leading software for developing engaging, realistic crisis simulation exercises. We fuse technology and storytelling to develop engaging, immersive exercises of unparalleled realism for both private and public sector organisations. Our clients include NATO, the Foreign Exchange Office, UK Ministry of Defence and many others.

Engagement with the ACSS

We have enjoyed working with the Australian Crisis Simulation Summit (ACSS) for the last 2 years and are excited to be joining ACSS 2022 both as a sponsor and by providing support. Amelia Freeman, Crisis Scenario Designer, has been training the team; Fernanda Elimelek, Head of Solutions, will be delivering a talk at the summit and our Conducttr software is being used to bring the ACSS scenarios to life in the best way possible.

We are continuously impressed by the level of ingenuity with which the team carries the summit and feel honoured to support the Australian Crisis Simulation Summit in developing the next generation of national security leaders.



Conducttr





Upcoming Podcasts

As noted in our last update our Research and Education team has been working diligently to produce a variety of ongoing podcasts drawing in a plethora of top experts to discuss some of today's biggest security issues. The podcasts will be released individually up until the Summit week, with the first of eleven being already released. This episode had the 2022 ACSS Director Genevieve Lumb on to introduce the podcast series. The following three episodes and guest speakers are as follows:

Guest Speaker



Ben Zala is a Research Fellow in the Department of International Relations. His work focuses on theoretical and historical approaches to the politics of the great powers and the management of nuclear weapons.

Podcast Topic

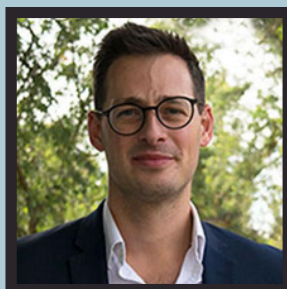
- Nuclear politics



Sophie Saydan's PhD research focuses on how non-state armed groups get international legitimacy. Specifically, she explores how some non-state armed groups have made the transition from being deemed terrorist organisations to being recognised as legitimate political and diplomatic entities.

Podcast Topic

- Terrorism/counterterrorism



Benjamin Herscovitch is a Research Fellow at the ANU's School of Regulation and Global Governance, where he focuses on China's economic statecraft and Australia-China relations. Before joining ANU Benjamin was an analyst and policy officer in the Department of Defence, specialising in China's external policy and Australia's defence diplomacy. He was previously a researcher for Beijing-based think-tanks and consultancies.

Podcast Topic

- China and the Pacific

Have a suggestion for us?

If you have any suggestions regarding interesting topics or even just general feedback regarding our podcasts please reach out as we would love to hear them. Please email us at acss@anu.edu.au.



Developing the ACSS through our Hub Coordinators

This year our Delegate Experience (DE) team has placed significant impetus behind developing the ACSS by working closely with our Hub Coordinators from around the country. Through DE workshops and training sessions the team in collaboration with Hub Coordinators have been developing tangible goals aimed at progressing the ACSS 2022.



ABIGAIL MASTERS
HUB COORDINATOR
VIRTUAL HUB

"The ACSS has been working hard to ensure that delegates from across the country have the opportunity to participate in the summit. Implementing and developing strategies for equitable access and championing diversity and inclusion the summit will truly represent the future of national security leaders. I am looking forward to working with our delegates and creating an experience that is grounded in education, innovation and longevity."



ANGUS COLOVIC
HUB COORDINATOR
ADELAIDE

Angus is an associate working in Public Policy and Economics at PricewaterhouseCoopers, having recently finished his Master's Degree in Advanced Economics at the University of Adelaide. A delegate at last year's ACSS, he has a strong interest in the development and sustainability of the Australian Defence industry. He has published work on the impact of Chinese tariffs on the Australian wine industry, and focused his postgraduate thesis on the political drivers of disputes at the World Trade Organisation.



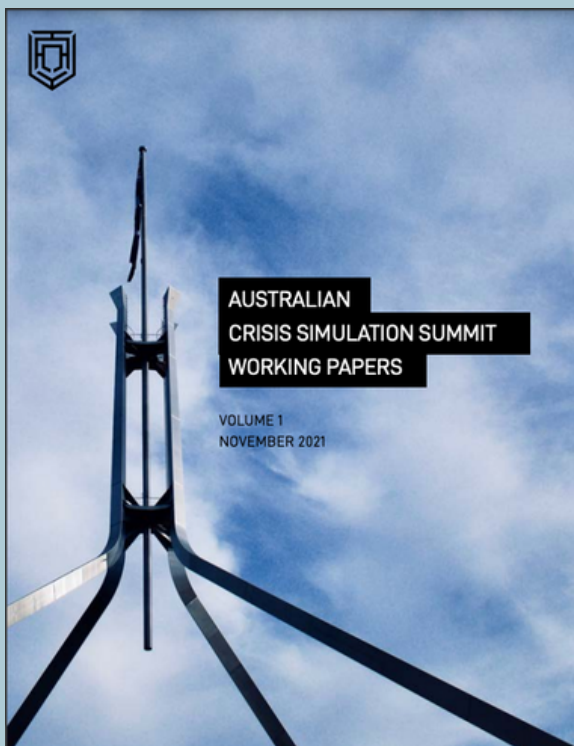
The ACSS Journal

After a long-awaited release, we are pleased to announce the publication of the 2021 Working Papers in partnership with the Crawford School of Public Policy; reflecting of the tremendous work and effort of the 2021 ACSS Education and Research team.

Providing novel and insightful understandings across a range of national security topics, this working paper series combines the emerging perspectives of our 2021 delegates and that of distinguished academics and well-respected minds. With contributions by the likes of Admiral Chris Barrie, Professor John Blaxland and Colonel Dave Beaumont, the paper sets out to develop the skills of students outside of the classroom to truly prepare them as the next generation of national security leaders.

Understanding the centrality of national security in the current climate of affairs, it is essential for those in industry, academia, and government to adopt a truly multidisciplinary approach to better prepare themselves for the challenges of today as well as that of tomorrow. A principle that is enshrined in the 2021 ACSS Working Papers.

Liam Synan
Head of Education and Research (2022)



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Colonel Dave Beaumont



What's Next....

New mentors

As we move closer to the Summit and start to prepare the 2022 delegates the ACSS will continue to take on board new mentors and consultants that will play various roles before and during the Summit week.

Stay tuned in our October update to see who's getting involved and in what capacity.



More sponsors

In next months update the ACSS will be introducing more of our 2022 sponsors.

This will involve a special comment from a mentor from our ongoing partner Conductrr.

Panelists

Next month we will also be announcing the first round of guests on our panel series that involves experts from government, business and academia coming together to discuss a variety of timely security issues.

These will be run live from ANU in Canberra and on zoom. Recording will also be made available for our delegates if they cannot attend.

There will also be allocated time for questions and interaction with the panelists.

New International Hub

The ACSS is extremely excited to announce the establishment of a new international Hub in next month's update.

This will be the first Hub of its kind!

