

**Panel:** China and Japan (Lilac & Tulip Room)

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, December 11, 2012/ 12:45-14:00

**Talking Points for:** Alexander Bukh, Senior Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington

1. Decline (of Japan)/rise (of China), right/wrong approaches as well as Kremlinology style attempts to predict China's (Japan) policy are not very useful in analyzing the state of bilateral relations
2. Looking at Japan-China through the prisms of IR theories:
  - a) Realism-change in the balance of power in the region, conflict will intensify and either result in a major clash between China and Japan-US or limited confrontation that will either end with China's retreat or accommodation of its demands (Senkakus?). Alternatively, Japan will reach a compromise with China and ally itself with China to balance the US (highly unlikely).
  - b) Liberalism-economic interdependence with Japan and the US prevent escalation in the territorial dispute, China will seek to settle the dispute through international arbitration (ICJ? Unlikely) or the two parties will reach a face saving compromise through bilateral negotiations
  - c) Constructivism-1) China will gradually internalize the international norms of peaceful settlement of disputes or 2) China's identity as a victim of Japan's (and Western powers) imperialism will dominate its foreign policy and possibly lead to an "irrational" military clash with Japan

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**\* The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.**