



## KISA 2026 Call for Papers

### 'Diplomatic and Security Challenges in an Era of Shocks to the Global System'

The return of Donald Trump to the White House in 2025, in conjunction with the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine and Chinese threats against Taiwan, highlight the continued emergence of shocks to the global system that have already been underway since the first Trump Administration. This year alone has seen the Trump Administration initiate a conflict against Iran that has imperiled the oil markets and posed the global economy with the prospect of a recession, along with the earlier raid on Venezuela to capture President Maduro. Concurrently, the Trump Administration's threats against NATO portend the prospect of a stridently unilateralist US foreign policy, even as Europe and the Indo-Pacific region face the possibility of increasingly assertive regimes in Moscow and Beijing. Shifting rules of engagement on the global stage are prompting traditional U.S. allies in Europe to pursue more autonomous defense and foreign policy strategies that are less exposed to Washington's unpredictability and more conducive to deeper regional integration. Would this trend also lead to greater integration in Asia and other regions?

This backdrop underscores the urgency of this year's Korea International Studies Association (KISA) Conference, wherein we invite scholars to submit proposals on themes that include, inter alia:

- Great power rivalry
- International security broadly construed
- Security and diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific and Transatlantic regions
- Non-traditional security concerns (including climate change, cyber security, hybrid warfare, human rights, etc.)
- Development and Area Studies
- International Relations theory and practice
- Comparative politics

Past conference papers submitted to KISA have an excellent track record of subsequently forming the basis for published manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, and it is our sincere hope that you will consider submitting your research papers to KISA as part of the process of developing your research standing. In this context, KISA's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference invites scholars and practitioners of international relations to participate in addressing the following topical issues.

- 1) How have emerging domestic socio-economic trends resulted in increasing implications for international politics?
- 2) What is the role of scholars, educators, the civil service, social media commentators, NGOs and other stakeholders in identifying emerging societal and international challenges?
- 3) Amid the fallout from the US war against Iran, what measures can international society take in seeking to maintain resilient supply chains whilst mitigating the damage to the international political economy?
- 4) With the continued proliferation of AI-powered generative content, what measures can be taken to ensure societal awareness of the implications of cyberspace?
- 5) In anticipation of the possibility that the US turn to a more isolationist worldview



- continues amidst the continued ambitions of China and Russia to challenge the international rules-based order, how can stakeholder states step up to the role of affirming the geopolitical status quo?
- 6) The diplomatic and security cooperation between China, Russia, North Korea and Iran indicates their common interests in challenging the rules-based order in the Eurasian landmass. Against this, however, are the status quo states in the 'Rimlands' of Eurasia. What are the implications of geography and geostrategy for national security planning?
  - 7) Over the preceding decades, there has been much scholarship on middle powers as seeking to fill a niche role in upholding the international rules-based order. However, there are other countries that, whilst possessing the material indices of a middle power, are also revisionist states, as illustrated by North Korea, Iran, Myanmar and Belarus. How have such 'rogue' middle powers conducted themselves in international relations, and what can be done in response against such states?
  - 8) Given the plausible deniability and the lack of transparency that characterizes foreign states' adoption of hybrid warfare tactics, how can status quo states safeguard themselves against such non-traditional threats?
  - 9) How can the international community prepare for challenges such as climate change and the next pandemic?
  - 10) Beyond those questions, the conference organizers will consider papers from the following disciplines and areas of study: War/Conflict and Peace Studies; International Security/Relations; Geostrategy; Military History; Human Rights; Economics; International Economics; Aid, Development, and Economic Security; Sociology; International Law; Cybersecurity and Space Security; Climate Change and Environmental Studies; Intelligence Studies; Terrorism/Counterterrorism Studies; Korean and East Asian History

The 18th Annual Conference will be held in Seoul in late fall (exact date TBA). The event is sponsored by the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation. Please send a brief paper proposal (150 words) and short bio (100 words) to [info@kisa-global.org](mailto:info@kisa-global.org). Student presentations may be grouped together in separate, student-only panels. Students may also participate as session moderators. Selected submissions will be eligible for inclusion in a special issue of the *Journal of International Peacekeeping* or *Asian International Studies Review*. Previous collections of papers have also been published as edited volumes by Palgrave Macmillan.

Submissions received by 1 August will receive preferential review. Later submissions will be considered on a space-available basis. KISA is unfortunately unable to offer travel/accommodation support.

We look forward to your participation at the upcoming KISA Conference.

Please spread the word and feel free to forward this flyer.

KISA 2026 Executive Organizing Committee

KISA is the academic association devoted to the study of international affairs in Korea through the English language. We invite scholars, practitioners, and advanced students to submit proposals that explore this theme from a variety of perspectives.