

Welcome to IRSEM's newsletter !

Director's foreword



As the new director of IRSEM, the Institute for Strategic Research of the Ecole Militaire (“military academy”, or “war college”), it is my pleasure to introduce this new Anglophone newsletter. Although [IRSEM](#) was created in 2009, with the aim to study security and defence issues, by publishing academic-standard papers, organizing conferences, contributing to training both Ph.D candidates and high ranking French officers, and travelling worldwide for symposiums and field research, hitherto we had only had a [newsletter in French](#). Now you can read in English about the activities of our team - about fifty civilian and military staff. Based in Paris, IRSEM bridges a gap between the worlds of academia and defence. It is a unique, hybrid asset of the French panorama. You can know more about us and our research topics by accessing our [website](#). With our Research Director, [Prof. Julia Grignon](#), our Secretary General, Ms [Caroline Verstappen](#), and our Head of International Development, Dr [Wendy Ramadan-Alban](#), we have been working hard to make more of our activities and research available in English. The first issue of this newsletter will get you acquainted with our current visiting fellows, our international activities and programs, and the latest publications available in English. Feel free to [unsubscribe](#) or contact [Ms Lila Chassac](#) who made the idea of an Anglophone newsletter possible, for further information. This will help to make the second one even better. And please reach out and [visit us](#) next time you are in Paris.

International development



IRSEM boosts its international presence

International development is high on IRSEM's agenda. Aside from its partnerships with key foreign actors of the defence sector, the institute welcomes visiting fellows all year round and has appointed its new Head of International Development and Institutional Relations.

IRSEM has five partnership agreements with various institutions specialised in security and defence issues, including the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) based in Japan, the NATO Defense College, the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (India), the Académie Internationale de Lutte contre le Terrorisme (Côte d'Ivoire), and the College of International Security Affairs (CISA) in the United States.

The Institute supervises two programmes: first, the Network of European Strategic Studies Institutes (NESSI) created in 2021 which aims to foster European research on strategic matters, and second, the Paris Defence Young Leaders, which was launched as an audacious new program last year, and whose goal is to build a network of young professionals in the field of defence.



IRSEM has recently appointed its new Head of International Development and Institutional Relations to supervise the institute's international strategy. Dr Wendy Ramadan-Alban, whose thesis addressed Iran's grand strategy through the lens of the negotiations related to the Iranian nuclear programme (2003-2015), is in charge of facilitating IRSEM partnerships and programmes (NESSI, Network of European Strategic Studies Institute, and Paris Defence Young Leaders). She will also help develop IRSEM's upcoming branch in Bruxelles (opening September 2023). In addition, she represents the institute at a large number of institutional events, such as the expanding receptions of foreign delegations.

International guests

IRSEM welcomes visiting fellows all year round. Three new scholars have just joined us.



Kyles HAYNES

Kyles HAYNES is an associate professor at the Political Science Faculty at Purdue University (U.S.A). He completed his PhD in Foreign Affairs in 2012 at the University of Virginia. He is interested primarily in security studies, conflict and bargaining and US foreign policy. His policy research papers also appear in *The Diplomat* and *War on the Rocks*.



Wooyeal PAIK

Wooyeal PAIK is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science and International Studies, Deputy Director of the Yonsei Institute of North Korean Studies and Head of the « Interdisciplinary Political Science Lab » program at Yonsei University (Seoul). He also teaches a class at the Brussels School of Governance. He is a specialist in NATO's relations with Asia-Pacific partners (AP4) and defence industrial cooperation in South Korea and in Europe.



Shigeki AKIMOTO

Shigeki AKIMOTO is a Senior Fellow working in the Security and Economy Division, Security Studies Department at the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) in Tokyo. He has developed a strong interest in defence economics, energy security, Russian economic and energy policy, and defence industrial policy.

Events and publications

Latest publications



Research Paper No. 131

« **NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) in the Baltic States and Poland : Assets and limits of the multilateral conventional deterrence** », by Amélie Zimma.

This paper analyses the limits and assets of conventional deterrence by taking NATO's enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) in the Baltic States and Poland as a case study. This research, based on a qualitative survey conducted at NATO headquarters, focuses on [...]

[Read the full research paper No. 131](#)



Strategic brief No. 57

« The transformation of intelligence services in the light of the war in Ukraine » by Yvan Lledo-Ferrer.

After two decades marked by the « war » on terror, the war in Ukraine constituted a brutal reawakening of power struggles and conventional warfare on European soil. While the « war » on terror created a lasting [...]

Read the full strategic brief No. 57

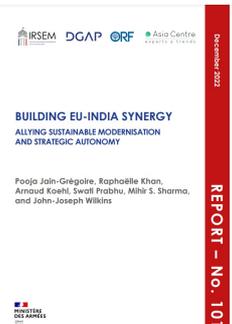


Report No. 97

« A Foreign Policy by Proxies? The Two Sides of Russia's Presence in Mali », by Maxime Audinet and Emmanuel Dreyfus.

Relations between Mali and Russia were, until recently, mostly based on defence cooperation, revived in the early 2000s on the underlying foundation of ties established during the Soviet era. However, they have [...]

Read the full report No. 97



Report No. 101

« Building EU-India Synergy: Allying sustainable modernisation and strategic autonomy » by Pooja Jain-Grégoire, Raphaëlle Khan, Arnaud Koehl, Swati Prabhu, Mihir S. Sharma, and John-Joseph Wilkins.

Strategic convergences mean that EU-India partnerships have the potential to be a vector of change for both actors and to offer new prospects for policy dialogue, as well as [...]

Read the full research paper No. 101



Research paper No. 132

« Mali kura, Mali fanga : the political trajectory of Mali under military rule » by Maxime Ricard.

How did military dominance come about in Mali following the coups of 2020 and 2021? What shifts has the situation brought about in terms of civil-military relations? What effects have these political changes had on the economies of violence in the Sahel region? [...]

Read the full research paper No. 132



Strategic Brief No. 50

« South Korea and the Indopacific: A strategic coming of age? » by Marjorie Vanbaelinghem.

While at first sight, South Korea's Indopacific strategy may signal more alignment on the US, it is designed to make the country a pivotal power. Political will allowing, the "elasticity" of the Indopacific concept will enable South Korea to upgrade its survival diplomacy to a more [...].

Read the full strategic brief No. 50



16 February : Symposium « War in Ukraine: one year later, what lessons learnt ? »

A year after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, IRSEM, along with all other research and education institutes working within the Ecole Militaire held a symposium to collectively reflect on the lessons to learn from the conflict. Bringing together members of the military and civilian researchers, the colloquium aimed at crossing perspectives and points of view. Throughout the day, dozens of experts were invited to share their insights on three themes: the first strategic lessons learnt from the experience of war; the new dependencies that it has created; and the recomposition of the international order. One year later, Russia's challenging of the international status quo has become unquestionable, imposing a reflection on the future of modern warfare, from battlefield tactics to industrial strategies, the centrality of space or cyber threats.



16 March : Conference : women in strategic expertise, a commitment to equality and diversity

Equality between men and women in the fields of strategic expertise and war studies cannot be achieved if one of the two sexes is underrepresented. As a matter of fact, diversity is an asset since equal participation helps to deliver rich and in-depth studies considering a variety of perspectives. IRSEM, together with other prominent French research institutes wish to take a stand and commit in favour of gender equality. The organisation of a conference on March 16, 2023 about the role of women in strategic expertise is part of a series of commitments made by IRSEM to be more proactive about diversity. Two round tables were held, first to provide a situational analysis of the role played by women in these fields as well as to tackle the lack of visibility of female experts in mainstream media.

[Read the full article](#)

Foreign delegations

IRSEM also welcomes foreign delegations on a regular basis. See some of them bellow:



14 february 2023 : Visit of Georgian senior analyst Olesya Vartanyan

Mrs Vartanyan paid her first visit to IRSEM since taking part in the « Paris Defence Young Leaders » first session last year. As a specialist on the South Caucasus region at the International Crisis Group (ICG), she presented her last report entitled « Averting a New War between Armenia and Azerbaijan ». Talking about the risk of being plunged into a third Nagorno-Karabakh war, she shared the ICG's recommendations. Mrs Vartanyan also expressed her gratitude and satisfaction for the Young Leaders program organised in April last year by IRSEM.

[Read the full article](#)

17 february 2023 : Visit of Dr. Collin Koh

On February 17, IRSEM welcomed Dr, Collin



Koh from the Singaporean think tank S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). Dr. Koh is a specialist on maritime security and geopolitics in South-East Asia. In April 2022, he wrote a joint policy paper entitled “Looking beyond the rhetoric : reactions in Southeast Asia to AUKUS”. Talks focused mainly on the EU’s strategy in the Indopacific, the evolution of South-East Asian positions and strategies for regional integration in the face of the rise of the PRC. Dr. Koh’s visit helped stress the need to debunk the idea of one homogeneous Indopacific region, highlighting on the contrary the diversity of particular interests and national strategies.



7 March 2023 : Visit of a NIDS delegation

The IRSEM team was delighted to welcome a delegation from the Japanese National Institution for Defense Studies (NIDS), with which it enjoys a close relationship. M. Masayuki Masuda (Senior Fellow, specialised in diplomacy and Chinese security matters) and M. Tomohiko Satake (Senior Fellow and expert on security in the Southeast Asian region) exchanged views with IRSEM scholars on the impact of the US-China competition, perspectives of evolution for the Sino-Russian relations and European perceptions of China, among other topics.



22 March 2023 : Visit of Dr. Rao (IDSA)

On March 22, IRSEM welcomed Dr. Swati Rao, an associate researcher at the Europe and Russia Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) in India. Dr. Rao, who specialises in the Europe-Russia area, met with Maud Quessard, Céline Marangé and Béatrice Hainaut (IRSEM) together with representatives of the Ministry of Armed Forces. Discussions focused on developments in the India-Russia bilateral relationship and the impact of the war in Ukraine, European security and strengthening Franco-Indian cooperation.

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