



A Southeast Asia Research Centre Seminar

US Power in Asia Pacific and the Americas: Towards a Politics of 'Leverage'?

by

Dr Nicola Phillips

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Room Y7302, Multi-Function Room, Department of Applied Social Studies
Floor 7, Academic Building, Lift 2
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Abstract: This paper sets out the contention that US economic and security strategies in Asia Pacific and the Americas aim essentially at putting in place a 'politics of leverage' and considers the evolution of US strategies in these two regions in this light. It uses this discussion as a platform for advancing a broader set of arguments about the nature of US power. While strategies have been oriented very clearly towards entrenching a politics of leverage, there are profound and visible limits to this exercise of power in both regions. In this light, the paper aims to analyse and, moreover, explain what we could consider to be a significant disjuncture between the 'structural' and 'relational' dimensions of US power and thus to arrive at a more satisfactory understanding of the nature of contemporary hegemony.

About the Speaker: Nicola Phillips is Senior Lecturer in International Political Economy. From 2002 to 2005 she held a Hallsworth Research Fellowship in Politics (GIP), and from 1997 to 2003 was Lecturer in Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick. She is Associate Research Fellow of the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO) in Argentina, and Associate Fellow of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, and holds a number of other visiting positions in various institutions in the UK, Europe and Latin America. Nicola is Managing Editor of *New Political Economy* and is co-editor of the Lynne Rienner *International Political Economy Yearbook* series. She is also a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Latin American Studies* and a member of the Latin American Trade Network (LATN), and from 2003 to 2005 was Convenor of the International Political Economy Group (IPEG) of the British International Studies Association (BISA).

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