

# NAJAKS 2010

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### KEYNOTE SPEECH ABSTRACT

## Japan-North Korean Security Relations in Flux: Still Super-sizing the DPRK Threat?

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Japan-North Korea relations have gone from bad to worse in the last decade. In part, this has been the result of Japan's heightened perception of North Korea as a threat to its national security. This talk explores why Japan has come to view North Korea as its number one security bogeyman, and arguably out of proportion to the real level of threat posed to Japan. It explores the actual extent of the threat, but also how this threat has been 'supersized' by Japanese policy-makers due to concerns of the impact of North Korea on the US-Japan alliance and the use of North Korea as a proxy threat to justify a range of changes in national security policy. The talk also considers how the changeover from the LDP to the DPJ administration has influenced Japan-North Korea bilateral ties, but also how the super-sizing process has continued unabated.

**Christopher Hughes** is Professor of International Politics and Japanese Studies in PAIS, as well as a Research Associate at the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation. Previously he was Research Associate at the Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University (IPSHU). From 2000-2001 he was Visiting Associate Professor, and in 2006 he held the Asahi Shimbun Visiting chair of mass Media and Politics, both at the Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo. He holds degrees from the Universities of Oxford (BA and MA), Rochester (MA), and Sheffield (MA and PhD). He is an honorary Research Associate at IPSHU and has been a Research Associate at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and Visiting Scholar at the East Asia Institute, the Free University of Berlin. He is currently the Edwin O Reischauer Visiting Professor of Japanese Studies at the Department of Government and Reischauer Institute, Harvard University, for 2009-2010. Research Scholarships have been received from the Japanese Ministry of Education, the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee, the European Union, the British Council, and the British Academy.

His research interests include Japanese foreign and security policy; Japanese international political economy; regionalism in East Asia; Japanese radicalism and terrorism; post-Cold War traditional and non-traditional security policy, and North Korea's external political and economic relations. Professor Hughes is the author of *Japan's Economic Power and Security: Japan and North Korea* (Routledge, 1999) and *Japan's Security Agenda: Military, Economic and Environmental Dimensions* (Lynne Rienner, 2004), *Japan's Remergence as a 'Normal' Military Power?* (Oxford University Press, 2004), and *Japan's Remilitarisation* (Routledge 2009), and co-author of *Japan's International Relations: Politics, Economics and Security* (Routledge, 2001 and 2005). He has published articles in English and Japanese in journals such as *International Affairs*, *Asian Survey*, *Survival*, *The Pacific Review*, *Review of International Political Economy*, *The Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *Security Dialogue*, *Pacific Affairs*, and *Orbis*. He is co-editor of *The Pacific Review*.