#### DU HYEOGN CHA

Dr. Cha Du Hyeogn is a North Korea Study expert who has shown various research performances on North Korean Politics and Military, U.S.-ROK Alliance, and National Crisis Management, etc. He is the Principal Fellow and Research & Planning Supervisor of Asan Institute for Policy Studies. He holds various additional posts as a member of The Unification Future Planning Committee -- an advisory body to the Minister of Unification established in March 2023, the Chairman of Planning & Coordination Subcommittee in ROK Peaceful Unification Advisory Council, an advisor for Ministry of National Defense, an advisor for Ministry of Unification, and a Visiting Professor of Graduate Institute of Peace Studies in Kyung Hee University. He also has served as Adjunct Professor of University of North Korean Studies (2017~2019), Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Governor of GyeongGi Provincial Government (2015~2018), Visiting Scholar of Korea Institute for National Unification (2015-2017), the Executive Vice President of the Korea Foundation (2011~2014). Before these careers, he was also a Research Fellow at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA, 1989~2012) and the Acting Secretary for Crisis Information to the ROK President Lee Myung Bak (2008). He has worked more than 20 years in KIDA as various positions including Director of Defense Issues Task force (2005~2006), Director of Arms Control Researches (2007), Director of North Korea Studies (2009). Dr. Cha received his M.A. and Ph.D. degree of Political Science from Yonsei University. He has written more than 100 research papers and co-authored books on diverse fields of security, International relations, and Korean unification.

### MAHIMA DUGGAL

Mahima Duggal is a Doctoral Researcher at the German Institute for Global Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg. Her dissertation addresses the topic of "Connecting Distant Geographies: EU's Engagement with the Indo-Pacific". She has published on such issues as India's strategies in the Indo-Pacific region, Indian-Korean relations and relations between India and Japan. She is part of the research focus on Global Orders and Foreign Policies at GIGA.

### **DENIZ KOCAK**

Dr. Deniz Kocak is a Research Associate with the Chair of Political Science, in particular Political Theory, at Helmut Schmidt University/University of the Armed forces Hamburg (HSU/UniBw H). He is also Associate Member of the Interdisciplinary Research Network "Maritime Security" (iFMS). He was Senior Scientific Officer at the German Institute for Risk Assessment, Lecturer at Freie Universität Berlin, and worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on police capacity building. He has been a Member of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) Advisory Network to the United Nations since 2021 and a Steering Committee Member of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Standing Group "Political Violence" since 2022. He obtained his doctoral degree at the Freie Universität Berlin and focuses on Security Governance and Maritime Security in Southeast Asia, Civil-Military Relations and Security Sector Reform (SSR).

### ALEXANDRA SAKAKI

Dr. Alexandra Sakaki is deputy head of the Asia division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs/ Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), an independent foreign policy think tank in Berlin. Her research focuses on Japanese foreign and security policy as well as Indo-Pacific security dynamics. Previously, she was a visiting researcher at Keio University and the National Defense Academy in Japan. Having studied East Asian Studies and International Relations at Princeton University (USA) and at the University of Cambridge (UK), she received her doctorate in political science at the University of Trier (Germany). She has authored numerous policy papers as well as articles in such journals as International Affairs, West European Politics, East Asia and the Australian Journal of International Affairs.

# **GUDRUN WACKER**

Dr. Gudrun Wacker is a Non-resident Senior Fellow in the Asia Research Division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) in Berlin. Before joining SWP, she held positions as a researcher at the Federal Institute for Russian, East European and International Studies in Cologne and at the Department for Chinese and Korean Studies of the University Tübingen, and has authored many publications with a focus on China and politics in the Indo-Pacific. Her research focuses on foreign and security policy of China and security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific/Indo-Pacific. Dr. Wacker is a leading expert on the field of EU relations with China and the region. She is currently an EU delegate to the Experts and Eminent Persons Group of the ASEAN Regional Forum.

### KATJA FREISTEIN (AIA NRW)

Dr. Katja Freistein is a Senior Researcher and Academic Coordinator of the Fellowship Programme at the Academy of International Affairs, Bonn. She is an International Relations scholar, who previously held positions at the Centre for Global Cooperation Research (University of Duisburg-Essen), the University of Bielefeld, Goethe University Frankfurt, State University of Saint Petersburg and at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt. She was a visiting professor at the University of the Armed Forces, Hamburg, Aarhus University, and the University of Muenster. Her research has focused on global inequalities, international organisations, narratives and visuality and on the regional politics of East and Southeast Asia. She has published widely in such journals as International Political Sociology, Third World Quarterly, Cooperation and Conflict and the Review of International Studies.

## MANUEL BECKER (AIA NRW)

Priv.-Doz. Dr. Manuel Becker is Head of the Scientific Programme of the Academy for International Affairs. From 2018 to 2023 he has been Managing Director of the Institute for Political Science and Sociology at the University of Bonn. He studied Political Science, Medieval and Current History as well as Philosophy at the University of Bonn and at Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Science Po). Manuel teaches Political Science at the University of Bonn and at the Hochschule Bonn/Rhein-Sieg. His research interests include the politics of history, university policy, the history of political ideas as well as International Relations. He has recently co-authored the monograph "Vorlesungen in der Politikwissenschaft. Eine praktische Anleitung, Berlin 2024". Furthermore, he was co-editor of a book on resignations in politics "Rücktritte von politischen Ämtern. Perspektiven auf das Ende von politischen Ämtern, Wiesbaden 2024".